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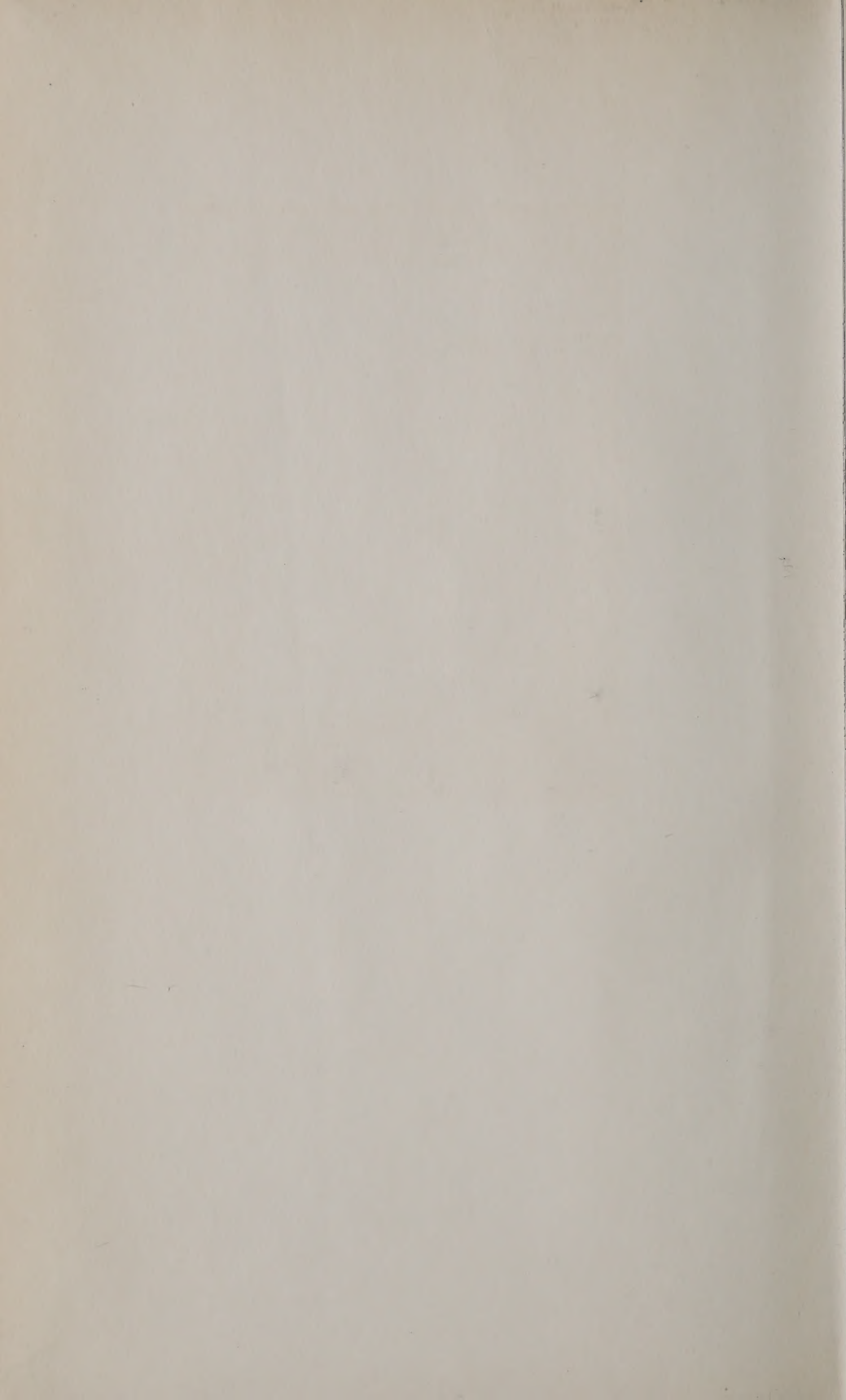
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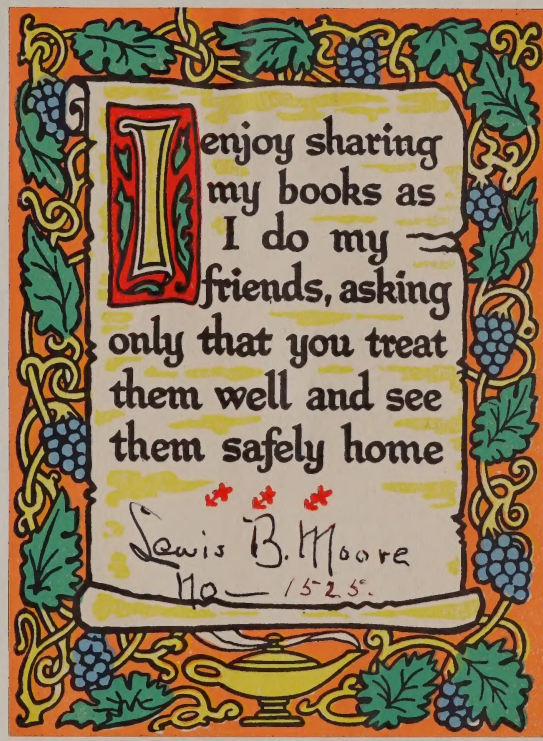
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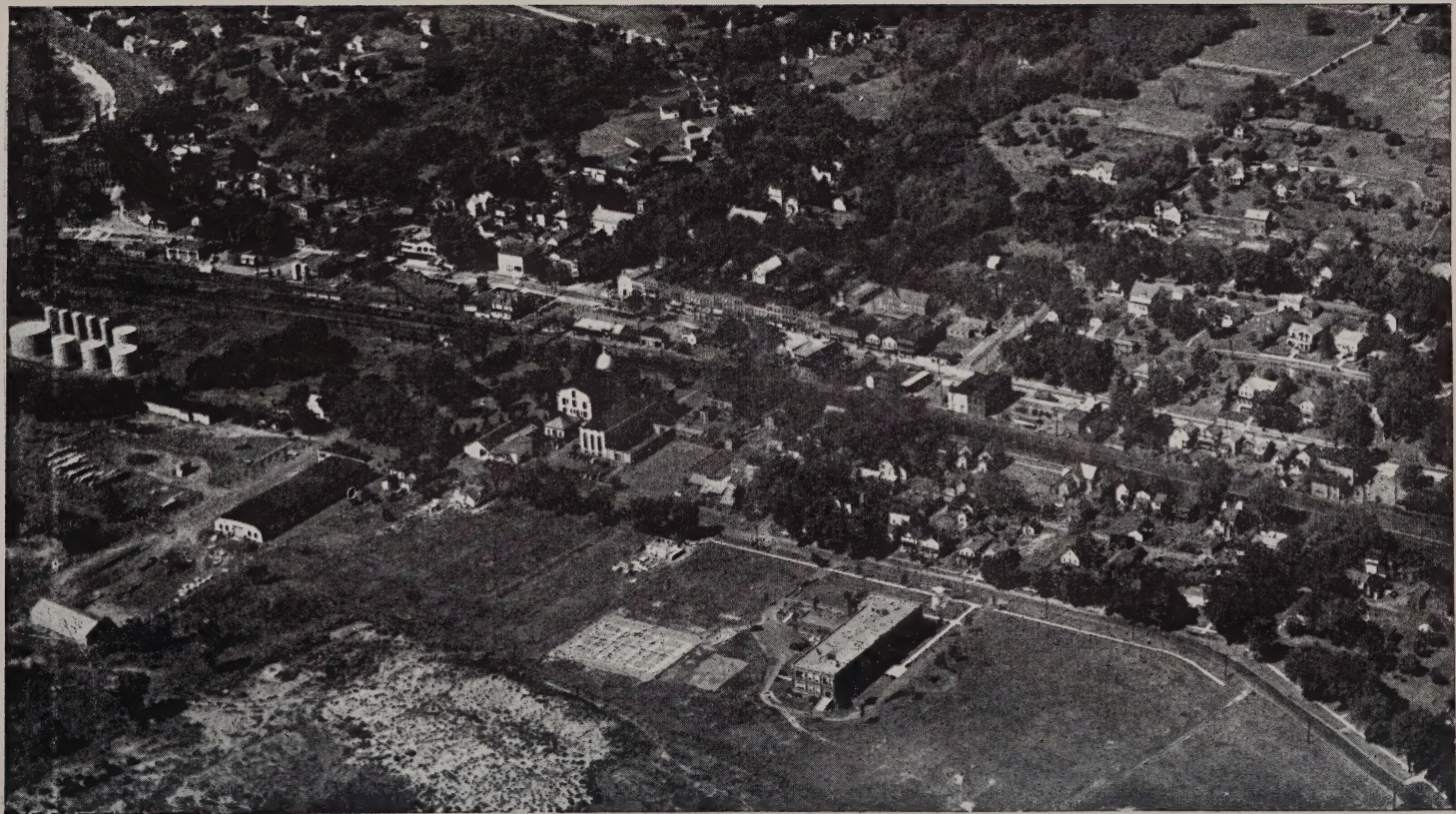
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Ienjoy sharing
my books as
I do my
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only that you treat
them well and see
them safely home

Lewis B. Moore
No. 1525.



The Village of Fonda as Seen From the Air Today.

1850—1950
CENTENNIAL
SOUVENIR

A HISTORICAL SKETCH

—OF—

THE VILLAGE OF FONDA, N. Y. 1850-1950

In Observance of the One Hundredth Anniversary
of Its Incorporation

—By—

MILLARD E. CRANE

Under the Auspices of the
Fonda Centennial Celebration Committee

With Additional Brief Sketches of Churches
and Other Community Organizations.

Printed by
Mohawk Valley Democrat

—1950—

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HISTORICAL SKETCH
OF THE VILLAGE OF FONDA, N. Y.

(1850—1950)

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An insert map of the Village of Fonda with streets and sites of historical significance.



Fonda Nestled in the Mohawk Valley as Seen From the Historic Col. John Butler Homestead.

Introduction

The Beautiful Mohawk Valley

When in prehistoric ages, after giant upheavals had thrown up a mountain range to the north, presently known as the Adirondacks, and another to the south, known as the Catskills, the Mohawk River was finding its way through the foothills between these two ranges and was grinding away rock and soil to gain a water level route to the Hudson River and to the sea, it fashioned a valley that for its scenic grandeur is justly recognized as one of the beauty spots of the Empire State. Elsewhere scenes of lofty mountains, of deep canyons or of great waterfalls may be more awe inspiring as examples of the mighty forces of nature, but for sheer beauty and endless variety this valley has an imposing charm that is all its own. Bordered partly by perpendicular walls of rock and partly by rolling hills it extends from west to east some one hundred miles in winding curves, with its own Master Sculptor, the Mohawk River, as its central feature.

The First Inhabitants

It is small wonder, when the first red men came into this valley, that they were delighted with the view that greeted their eyes; and with the added advantages afforded in the valley of shelter against wind and weather, of waterway travel by canoe and of abundant opportunities for hunting and fishing, that they should choose this valley as their permanent home. Thus in the centuries that followed the valley became dotted, in successive periods on both sides of the river, with the castles and villages of the powerful Mohawk tribe.

In the light of presently available historical data, the Mohawks must be regarded as the first known inhabitants of the valley. For while there are physical evidences of earlier habitation, such as mounds obviously built by human hands and other relics of various stages of prehistoric culture, there are no records that serve to identify peoples who in various periods, established their homes in the valley. Even the coming of the Mohawks is shrouded in mystery, though contacts with Indians in this as in other sections of the state are recorded by earlier white pioneers, these records are so sparse in detail that they do not identify the people to whom they refer. Evidently to the earliest white pioneers who penetrated to the vicinity of the Mohawk Valley, Indians were Indians and they had no way of distinguishing between one tribe and another. Nor can any reliance be placed in the many Indian traditions that have come down to us. No doubt every Indian tribe had built up its own tribal tradition, probably with some foundation in facts, but augmented with imaginative embellishments and exaggerations for the glorification of its own achievements. A comparative study of these traditions results in such confusion and contradiction that no conclusion of authoritative historical value can be reached.

Probably the first authentic description of the Mohawk tribe is given in the manuscript now generally credited to Narmen Meyn-

ON OUR 94TH BIRTHDAY,
WE SALUTE OUR VILLAGE
OF FONDA

ON ITS CENTENNIAL
OF INCORPORATION



COMPLETE BANKING SERVICE

for the ENTIRE COMMUNITY

THE NATIONAL
MOHAWK RIVER BANK

FONDA, N. Y.

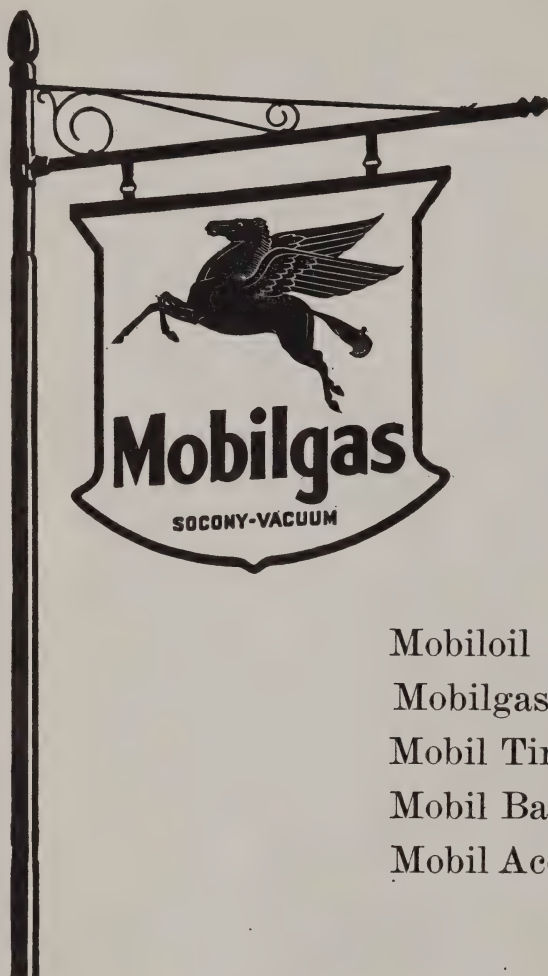
derts van den Bogaert, the surgeon of the Dutch West India Company at Fort Orange (Albany). The manuscript is a narrative of a journey into the Mohawk and Oneida country, 1634-35. At that time Bogaert found four castles (fortified villages) and four villages (unfortified) along the south bank of the Mohawk River. From the description it appears that these castles and villages extended from the site of the first castle near Auriesville, west of the Schoharie Creek, to the site of the fourth castle near the present village of Sprakers.

At the time of Bogaert's journey the Iroquois Confederacy had evidently been formed, with the Mohawks as the keepers of the eastern gate of the so-called "Long House" of the five nations, with the territory of the Oneidas, the Onondagas and the Cayugas extending westward in that order, and the Senecas as keepers of the western door. This confederacy held powerful sway over the entire central area of the present State of New York. But the very power which was theirs only served to make them more warlike and eventually led to their defeat and humiliation. The hostilities and feuds of all five nations with Indian tribes outside the confederacy, particularly with Algonquins and Hurons, and their alliances in the strife between the British and the French for the colonization of New York State, decreased their man power while it kept them almost constantly on the warpath.

But it was the century and-a-half long bitter enmity of the Mohawks toward the Canadian French and the Canadian Indians that finally broke the power of the Iroquois Long House. In the year 1666 a war party, led by Marquis De Tracy and composed of French soldiers and Canadian Indians, destroyed the Mohawk castles on the south bank of the river. After a peace had been concluded and the war party was returning homeward, the Mohawks rebuilt their castles along the north bank of the river. The sites chosen for the new castles were: Caughnawaga (1) west of the Cayadutta Creek on the hill known as the "Sand Flats" about one-quarter mile west of the present village of Fonda; Canagora, on Briggs Run, about one mile east of Yost's Station; Canajorha, on the Knaudetack or Schenck's Hollow Creek, about two miles north of the Mohawk; and Tionontogen, at present Wagner's Hollow. The latter three castles are located approximately as their exact location has not been established with certainty. Also it should be noted that the site of Tionontogen, the last of these three, was moved several times.

But the peace did not endure long. In the year 1693 a second war party of French soldiers and Canadian Indians invaded the Mohawk valley and destroyed the castles on the north bank of the river. Many of the Mohawks were slain or captured. Those who survived, now only a small, broken and disorganized remnant of the once proud and fierce Mohawk tribe, remained in the valley until the year 1775 when they migrated to Canada with Col. Guy Johnson, Indian superintendent, to join the British at the beginning of the American Revolutionary War.

(1) Additional details on Caughnawaga will be found in the introduction to the sketch on St. Cecilia's Church.



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Historical Sketch of Fonda, N. Y.

EARLY PATENTEES AND PIONEERS

The first patents to land lying within the Town of Mohawk were granted in July 1713 to the Hansens by Gov. Hunter and contained two thousand acres on the north bank of the Mohawk above Tribes Hill. The next year a like amount just west of this patent was granted to John, Edward and Margaret Collins, who sold to Myndert Wemple, Douw Fonda and Hendrick A. Vrooman. These latter settled and proceeded to found the families for which the town is noted. The third large patent to fill out the town to the west was the Alexander Patent of eight thousand acres, granted in 1725. Parts of the Stone Arabia, Butler, Wilson and Abeel Patents filled out the town lines on the North-West, North and East.

About the year 1750, Johannes Veeder left Schenectady and acquired fourteen hundred acres adjoining the Village of Caughnawaga. He became not only an illustrious citizen of Tryon County but the father of a distinguished family. Johannes became a member of the State Legislature. His son Volkert, among other things, was a lieutenant colonel of the Fourth Regiment of the Tryon County Militia during the Revolution. Abram, the second son, was a captain of Militia in the Revolution and a major general subsequently. Simon, third son, became a member of Assembly and county judge, and John, the fourth son, a state senator.

Harmen Visscher, the founder of the Visscher family, was one of the early settlers in the town. One hundred-and-fifty acres of the Hansen Patent north of the Visscher holdings was purchased by William H. Brower from his father for one dollar an acre. Here he came to settle after the Revolution and it is said that he made his first dollar on this place by burning a tree and carrying the ashes to the potash factory in Johnstown, established by Sir William Johnson.

Among the early settlers were Revolutionary War veteran Ralph Schenck who came in 1784; German immigrants Michael Stollers, Henry Coolman and Richard Schuyler; and John and Victor Putman, early settlers at Tribes Hill.

Among the early settlers of the town were Col. John Butler and his son Capt. Walter Butler in the British service who won such an infamous notoriety in the guerilla warfare waged against the non-combatants of the Mohawk Valley during the Revolution. The Butler house is still standing and even though it has been recently covered with asbestos shingle siding, its original lines are preserved. It is believed to be the oldest building in the town, having been erected in 1742. It stands on the hill northeast of Fonda at the commencement of the back road to Tribes Hill.

DUTCH VILLAGE OF CAUGHNAWAGA

Prior to the Revolution a Dutch village had grown up where the ancient Indian hamlet of Caughnawaga once stood. Its name in the Iroquois language is "Kanawake" and means "Above the Ra-

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
VILLAGE OF FONDA
ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY
**Glen & Mohawk
Milk Association Inc.**

MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS
FULTONVILLE, N. Y.

COMPLIMENTS OF
**Fultonville Machine
and Tool Co.**

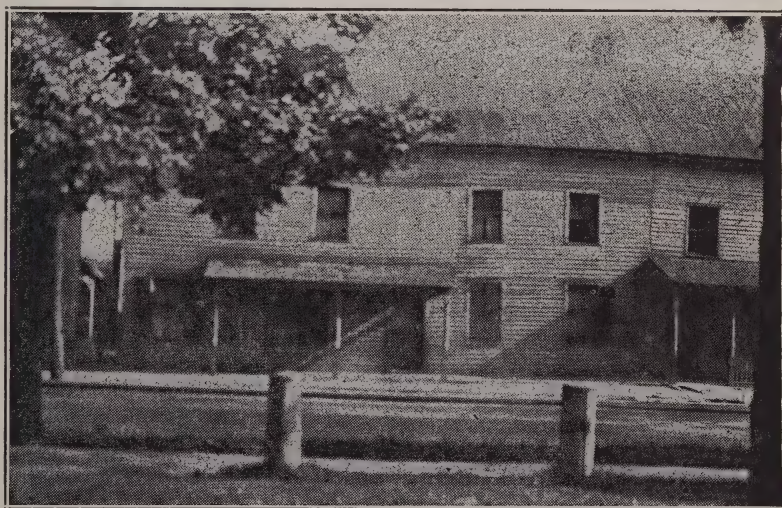
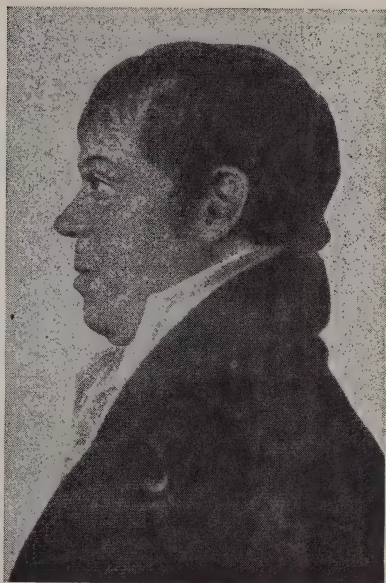
PRECISION MACHINE WORK

GEORGE SNYDER

FULTONVILLE

Douw Fonda

This picture was taken from a miniature on ivory which was among the Fonda family possessions. It is claimed to be the likeness of the senior Douw Fonda from whom the village derives its name.



Matthew Oliver Davis Tavern Erected 1781.

pids."(1) Its site extended east from the street now leading to Fultonville (Bridge St.) and included the land of the Fonda and Vrooman patents. The village itself extended from the old stone church (2) and parsonage to Douw Fonda's trading post near the river with-

- (1) From a letter in possession of Mr. E. C. Davis sr. from Sect. of Caughnawaga Reservation, Caughnawaga, Que.
- (2) A description of the old Caughnawaga Church is given elsewhere in this book.

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- MOBILFLAME BOTTLED GAS

IN FORT PLAIN—

- JOHN DEERE QUALITY FARM EQUIPMENT
- KELVINATOR ELECTRIC APPLIANCES
- G. M. C. TRUCKS

—PHONES—

PALATINE BRIDGE
36-735

FORT PLAIN
48-121

THE BEST WISHES

—OF—

HAYWOOD'S GRILL

BEA and HARRY

—THE BEST IN—

SANDWICHES — DRINKS and 15x20 TELEVISION
HALF WAY BETWEEN FONDA and CANAJOHARIE
ON ROUTE 5 AT YOST

in the circle of the present race track. The Matthew Oliver Davis Tavern, one of the original buildings of old Caughnawaga, still stands opposite the site of the old church. Its ballroom on the second floor afforded much entertainment and of a Sunday morning, after the womenfolk had been carefully handed into the church, the menfolk repaired to said tavern to refresh themselves after the journey to church and to fortify themselves against the Dominie's long sermon.

Douw Fonda, who settled here about 1750-51, may be considered as founder of this old village. He also founded the Fonda family—a branch of which is still in possession and residence of the original 84½ acres willed by Douw to his descendants(3). The fair grounds of the Montgomery County Historical Society (4) covers part of the site of this old village and when construction of the fair grounds took place many relics of the old village were found and the remains of some of the early inhabitants and some of the original tombstones were removed to the cemetery on the hill overlooking the site of their one-time home. Some of the graves were left undisturbed and may still be seen east of the race track. To this day the east end of the village of Fonda has been known as Caughnawaga and the cemetery as the Caughnawaga Cemetery.

Old Douw Fonda had three distinguished sons who were staunch Whigs and did much for the Colonial cause during the Revolution. The most prominent was Jelles who was born in 1727. He was an extensive landholder and trader and carried on his early trade at the edge of the Flats, a little below the village of Caughnawaga. During the war he served as captain and afterward major of the militia. His home and store went up in flames with the others during the raid on Caughnawaga.

REVOLUTIONARY EVENTS

The Town of Mohawk was the theatre of many stirring events during the struggle for independence. To list all of them would take a book in itself(1). The more familiar ones will be mentioned here.

One of the outstanding ones is the affair in which Jacob Sammons received the first wounds in the great struggle in the Mohawk Valley, when the Johnson party resisted the raising of a liberty pole at the Johannes Veeder mill. This building stood some rods west of Cayadutta Creek on land partly covered by the New York Central tracks. The local people had gathered here to erect a liberty pole and among those present was Jacob Sammons, son-in-law to Johannes Veeder. Before the pole could be raised Sir John Johnson arrived accompanied by his brothers-in-law Cols. Claus and Guy Johnson, together with Col. John Butler and others, all armed. Guy

- (3) The Albert Douw Fonda farm on the Johnstown road is the only Century Farm in the town.
- (4) A brief history of the Agricultural Society is given elsewhere in this book.
- (1) More may be found in Beers' "History of Montgomery County" and Sims' "Frontiersmen of New York."

COMPLIMENTS OF

Robison & Smith

LAUNDERERS and CLEANERS

GLOVERSVILLE, N. Y.

COMPLIMENTS OF

Frank Pullen

INSURANCE and REAL ESTATE

PHONE FONDA 3-4471

11 N. MAIN ST.,

FULTONVILLE

● PURCHASE PULLEN POLICIES ●

Johnson addressed the crowd and became so abusive in his manner and speech that Jacob could no longer restrain himself and interrupted the harangue by calling Johnson a liar and a villain. Sammons went down under a blow from a loaded whip and upon recovering prepared to fight when he was again set upon and severely beaten. When he came to this time he found that all had left the scene except the Fondas, Veeders and Visschers.(2).



Peggy Wemple Tavern Still Stands on Mills' Terrace. Erected 1780.

This incident over the pole raising occurred in the spring of 1775. In the autumn of the same year, Frederick Visscher, who had been commissioned colonel by Congress, had assembled his regiment for training near Peggy Wemple's tavern. Sir John and Lady Johnson drove up. Johnson alighted and ordered the men to disperse but the colonel likewise ordered them to keep their ranks. At this affront Johnson raised his swordcane to strike him but Visscher grasped the cane and in the struggle that followed, Johnson drew the sword from the cane which Visscher held. The colonel dared him to stab him upon which Johnson produced a brace of pistols and ordered the men to disperse or he would shoot the colonel. Whereupon someone from Visscher's command sang out: "If ye offer to lift a finger against my master, I'll blow ye through!" Johnson beat a hasty and strategic retreat.

Another favorite story is told about our local heroine, Margaret (Peggy) Wemple, daughter of Douw Fonda and sister of Jelles. Deprived of her husband, Barney Wemple in 1771, she was left in charge of their son Mina and kept an inn which stood on the bank of the Cayadutta across from the George F. Mills' house. In trying to intimidate her some local wags hung the body of a dead Indian just inside the tavern door. Upon going to the inn one winter evening she was a little startled at finding herself confronted by an

- (2) The Caughnawaga Chapter of the D. A. R. erected a monument near this spot at the foot of the Sand Flats Road to commemorate this event.

1836—1950
IN OBSERVANCE
—OF OUR—
114TH ANNIVERSARY
WE PAY TRIBUTE TO FONDA
ON THIS CENTENNIAL



FONDA'S OLDEST BUSINESS

- Publishers of Montgomery County's
Oldest Weekly Newspaper
- Complete Job Printing Plant.

Mohawk Valley Democrat

FONDA, N. Y.



Home of Maj. Jelles Fonda on Montgomery Terrace, Erected 1790.
Temporary Flooring was Laid for Fonda's Funeral in 1790. He
Didn't Live to Occupy the House.

Indian. But upon realizing that it was a dead one, she pushed it aside and entered to her work as if nothing untoward had happened.

The death of the venerable Douw Fonda, which occurred in 1780, cannot be overlooked. In one of their periodic raids, Johnson's Indians attacked Caughnawaga. Having some warning most of the inhabitants had fled to the hills for protection. Not so old Douw. His servant girl, Penelope Grant, tried to get him to leave with her, but for the sake of her own safety, finally left him. Perhaps, due to his age, he was a little childish and then again perhaps he had no fear for his safety. He had always been on friendly terms with the Indians and was a personal friend of Sir William Johnson. Be that as it may, when the Indians arrived one whom he had especially befriended, known as One-armed Peter, led him from the house toward the river and tomahawked and scalped him. When later reprimanded by Sir John Johnson, the Indian argued that someone would have taken his scalp anyway and he thought he might as well get the bounty as anyone else.

Probably one of the most impressive sights the early inhabitants of old Caughnawaga ever saw was the meeting, on January 18, 1776, of General Schuyler, in command of 2,000 soldiers, with Colonel Herkimer and the Tryon County regiment of 1,000 militiamen. They encamped overnight after holding a review of the combined command on the ice of the river, and marched to Johnstown the next day, where they disarmed Johnson and his Tory force. This was the largest American force ever gathered at one time in the valley during the Revolution.

CONGRATULATIONS

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● EXIDE BATTERIES

● ALL MAKES OF CARS SERVICED

PHONE 33-641

FONDA, N. Y.

THE BUILDING OF THE MOHAWK TURNPIKE

At the beginning of the eighteenth century few white men had entered the Mohawk Valley other than traders. The Mohawks were intent upon keeping settlers out. However, as their numbers diminished and their clans weakened as the result of tribal wars, they abandoned their castles on the north shore of the Mohawk and moved to the south shore. This left the north side of the river open to settlement and soon many settlers moved in on patents acquired from the governor or land purchased outright from the Indians.

The Indian trail soon became a cart trail from Schenectady to Utica and throughout the Revolution was broadened and packed down by marching armies. During this early period it was known as the King's Highway.

In order to accommodate the influx of immigrants who flocked to settle in the valley or travel further westward after the Revolution, a charter was issued on April 4, 1800 for the construction of the Mohawk Turnpike. This turnpike, one of the first completed, was 80 miles long and had a capital of \$190,000. It followed virtually the old road from Schenectady to Utica. Toll gates were authorized every ten miles, thus making eight on the Mohawk turnpike. The original "road houses" were built along its length for accommodation of traveler and beast. Many of these early "tourist" homes are still to be seen along Route 5 which today follows practically the same old roadbed of the King's Highway.

THE UTICA AND SCHENECTADY RAILROAD

The natural waterway formed by the Mohawk assured this valley of undying fame as the only natural gateway to the west of the great Delaware Water Gap. Not long after the development of the Mohawk Turnpike an entirely new method of transportation wormed its way up the valley. In August 1831, the immortal



Famous Dewitt Clinton Train Which Made its First Run in 1831.

COMPLIMENTS OF

Murray and John Jackson

George Furniture-Appliance Store

FONDA, N. Y.

CONGRATULATIONS TO
THE VILLAGE OF FONDA

—FROM—

Bauder Gas & Electric Co.

CANAJOHARIE, N. Y.

"Dewitt Clinton" made its maiden run from Albany to Schenectady. This first steam train in the north, (1) known as the Mohawk and Hudson, opened new vistas of transportation to the valley.

It didn't take long for enterprising men of the valley to see the advantages to be gained by the extension of this railroad to serve the communities scattered along the Mohawk. Consequently, through their efforts, a charter was granted in 1833 for the construction of the Utica & Schenectady Railroad with a capital of \$2,000.00. In many places this road was laid on the Mohawk Turnpike because of its proximity to the river and the turnpike reconstructed a little further north. (2) On August 1, 1836 the road was opened for the conveyance of passengers. There was no provision made for the handling of freight so when the canal closed in the fall due to frost and a family in Palatine Bridge wished to move to Schenectady, they were allowed to ship their effects via train. This is considered as the first freight to be hauled by the New York Central System.

In 1839 the road was completed to Syracuse and thus was formed the present Mohawk Division (Albany to Syracuse) of the New York Central which was the parent division of the system. Since 1836, therefore, Fonda has been an important stop on this great transportation system and its life intimately tied up with it.

COUNTY SEAT MOVED TO FONDA 1836

In 1835 the prospect of rapid increase of population and demand for real estate in the Mohawk Valley, as a consequence of the construction of the Utica and Schenectady Railroad, led to much speculation in lands and building sites along the right of way. Fonda may date its principal growth from them.

In that year a number of capitalists including John B. Borst, John L. Graham, James Lorimer Graham, Judge S. W. Jones, Charles McVean and James Porter organized the Fonda Land Association. They bought the lands in the western part of the present village, had it surveyed, laid out in building lots and mapped. The map was made by O. H. Lee and showed only 17 homes and public buildings. William C. Young, who was the Chief Engineer of the Utica and Schenectady Railroad in its construction, and its first superintendent, also interested himself in this project. John L. Graham, who was counsel for the Farmer's Loan and Trust Company of New York, obtained from that institution, in behalf of the association, a loan of \$25,000.00 with which to make purchase and improvements.

This group of men believed that their prospects would be bettered by making this new center the County Seat, and two events aided them to bring this about. The Erie Canal was completed in 1825 and the Utica and Schenectady Railroad was about to begin

- (1) The Baltimore and Washington was older as a road in actual operation.
- (2) Thus originated the famous New York Central slogan, "The Water Level Route."

CONGRATULATIONS

FROM THE

Retail Merchants' Bureau

OF

AMSTERDAM, N. Y

—BEST WISHES FOR THE SUCCESS—

—OF THE—

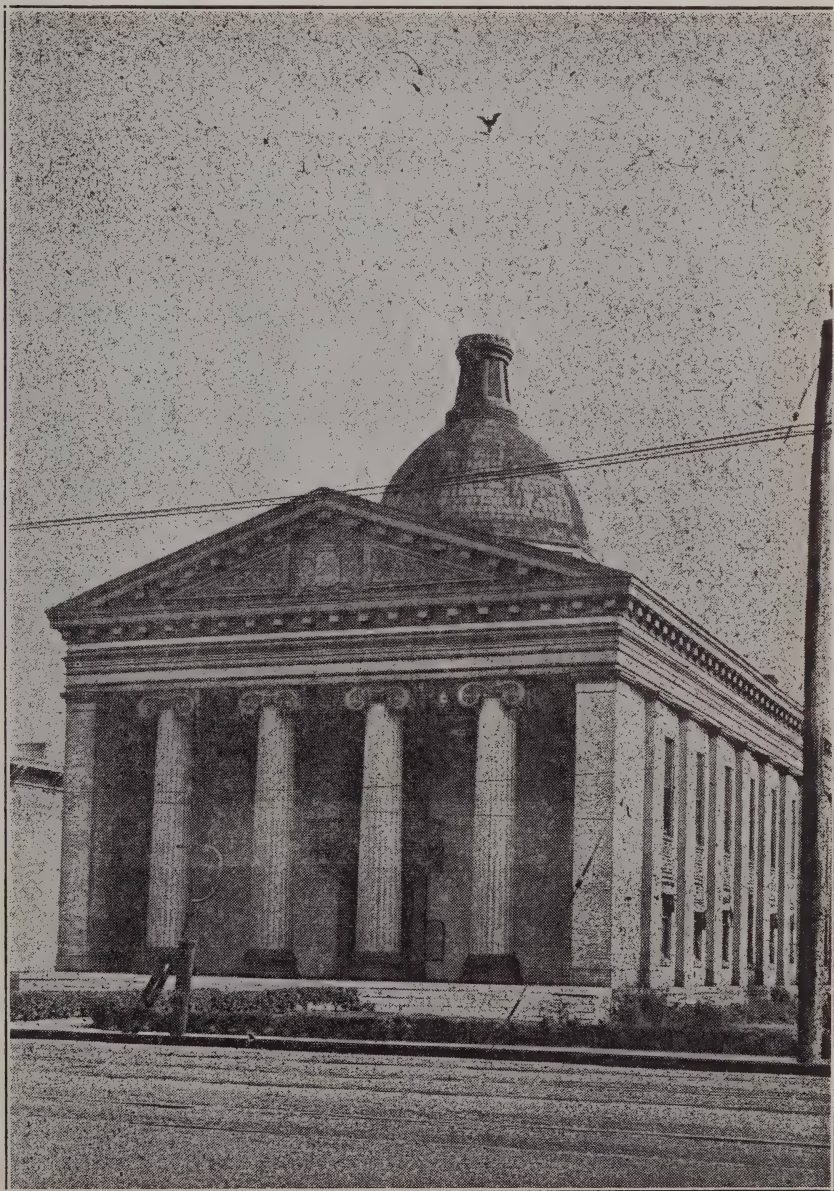
FONDA CENTENNIAL

—FROM—

John F. Bennison

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF
SURROGATE OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

full operation. Thus, inasmuch as it was nearly the geographical center of the county and certainly the center of communication, a petition was presented to the legislature in 1836, asking that FONDA, the name given to this new village in honor of Douw Fonda, pioneer settler, be made the County Seat.



Fonda's Famous Old Court House Erected in 1836.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
VILLAGE OF FONDA
ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY**

**Fonda Cooperative G. L. F.
Service, Inc.**

FEEDS — SEEDS — FERTILIZERS

PHONE 3-5231

COMPLIMENTS OF

C. T. E. Van Horne

ELECTRIC APPLIANCES

PAINTS and GENERAL HARDWARE

FULTONVILLE, N. Y.

The measure was passed and the erection of a jail and court house was authorized. These were built on land sold by John B. Borst to the County of Montgomery at a cost of \$30,500. The Court House itself, one of the finest examples of Ionic architecture in the state, was built on the site of the home of the last Colonial Sheriff of Tryon County, Alexander White, who, as a Tory, was compelled to flee to Canada.



Classic Old Fonda Hotel Built in 1836, Better Known as Hotel Roy, Destroyed by Fire in 1909.

One of the improvements made by the Association was the building of the Fonda Hotel in 1836. John B. Borst was the man most heavily interested in the whole enterprise, and the title to the real estate acquired was taken by him for himself and associates. Most of the parties to the investments suffered in the financial distress of 1837 and their embarrassments enabled Borst to buy out their interests under a foreclosure of the mortgage held by the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company. Among other things he thus became the sole proprietor of the Fonda Hotel. This hotel was one of the most conspicuous buildings in the valley. It was about 125 by 55 feet and three stories high, with an imposing colonnade at either end so that it very closely resembled the Court House on the other side of the single railroad track. For a number of years the end facing the railroad was used as a depot and trains of the Utica and Schenectady made regular stops for the refreshment of its passengers. It was located on the southwest corner of Main Street and Broadway, where the Colonial Restaurant now stands.

COMPLIMENTS OF

William Bartyzel

DISTRIBUTORS OF

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| ● IRISH CREAM ALE | ● BEVERWYCK BEER |
| ● SCHRIEBERS | ● SCHLITZ |
| ● KREUGERS | ● BLACK HORSE |

PHONE 2-786

203-205 FOREST AVE.,

AMSTERDAM, N. Y.

COMPLIMENTS OF

SARRIS BROS.

ICE CREAM AND SNACK BAR

JOHNSTOWN AND FONDA, N. Y.

INCORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF FONDA 1850

On the petition of Chester S. Brumley, John S. Haggart and Richard H. Cushney, the Court of Sessions which sat at the Montgomery County Courthouse, September 30th, 1850, consisting of Judge Belding, and Justices F. P. Moulton and Obadiah Davis, granted an order for the incorporation of the village under the name of FONDA, subject to a vote of its citizens, for which provision was made. The following is a copy of the order:

2. MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSIONS September Term 1850

MONTGOMERY COUNTY Incorporation of the In the Matter of the Village of FONDA in the Town of Mohawk in said County

On reading and filing the petition of Chester S. Brumley, John S. Haggart and Richard H. Cushney residents of said Village and within territory hereafter described praying for an order incorporating said village of Fonda, and the notice of such application thereunto annexed and the affidavit of the due publication thereof as required by law and on reading and filing the Map and survey of said village and the affidavit verifying the same and the census thereof and the affidavit verifying the same both of which (said Map and Survey and census and the said affidavits.) being annexed to said petition and also on reading and filing with and annexed to said petition an affidavit of their being duly left at the place of business of Richard H. Cushney a resident of said Village subject to examination as required by the 4th section of the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the Incorporation of Villages," passed December 7th, 1847, and it appearing to the court that all the requirements of said act have been duly complied with that said census, Map and Survey are Correct and that the Territory described in the petition contained at the time said census was taken a population as great in proportion to the quantity of land within the bounds thereof as that specified in the said Act, and that all the proceedings required by said Act, and the act amending the same have been added regularly herein:- Therefore it is hereby ordered on motion of R. H. Cushney counsel in behalf of said petitioners that the Territory described in said petition shall be an incorporated Village of and by the name of the "VILLAGE OF FONDA," if the electors thereof shall assent thereto as provided by the Act aforesaid; and it is hereby ordered that John Everson, Henry H. Dockstader and Perry Yates of the Town of Mohawk in the said County be appointed inspectors of Election and are directed to proceed according to the provisions of said Acts to perform the duties therein required of them.

The Territory hereby incorporated as such Village is described and bounded as follows: Commencing at a cluster of soft Maple Trees standing on the Bank of the Mohawk River and on a course south 12 degrees west from the North east Corner of the last house standing at the east end of Caughnawaga, and runs thence north 12 degrees east 34 chains 18 links, thence North 77 degrees west 57 chains 45 links, thence north 25 degrees west 6 chains, 50 links, thence north 60 degrees west 7 chains and 50 links, thence south 70 degrees 14 chains 10 links to a Grave Stone of Myndert B. Wemple thence south 50 degrees 30 minutes west 12 chains 70 links to Cayadutta Creek, thence south 15 degrees west 29 chains 18 links to the River, thence south 62 degrees east 15 chains 75 links thence south 85 degrees east 6 chains, thence north 74 degrees east 8 chains 82 links, thence south 88 degrees west, 12 chains 65 links thence east 6 chains, thence north 76 degrees east 6 chains 17 links, thence east 14 chains 88 links thence south 78 degrees 11 chains 50 links down the river to the place of beginning, containing 312 acres, and which said territory lies entirely in the town of Mohawk County of Montgomery.

Collin's Grocery

FONDA, N. Y.
EXTEND TO THE
VILLAGE OF FONDA
CONGRATULATIONS
ON THIS, THE 100TH
ANNIVERSARY OF ITS
INCORPORATION

COMPLIMENTS OF

Fitzgerald Bottling Co., Inc.

—MAKERS OF—

FINE BEVERAGES SINCE 1882
AMSTERDAM, N. Y.

At a special election as ordered by the court the vote was almost unanimously in favor of the incorporation.

LAWS OF NEW YORK STATE. Chapter 50.

AN ACT authorizing the election of trustees and other officers of the **VILLAGE OF FONDA.**

Passed March 17th 1851.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Sec. 1. An election of trustees and other officers of the village of Fonda in the County of Montgomery shall be held on the second Tuesday of May next, subject to the provisions of the act entitled "An Act to provide for the incorporation of villages," passed December seventh, one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven, relative to the election of trustees and other officers of villages incorporated under and by the provisions of said act, except so much of said act as requires the said election to be held on the first Tuesday of March.

Sec. 2. The trustees and other officers of said village elected on the twenty-eighth day of October 1850, shall hold their respective offices until others shall be elected in their place.

Sec. 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Under this Act the election was held on May 13th 1851, and the following were chosen Trustees - R. H. CUSHNEY, R. VAN HOUSEN, P. H. FONDA, CHARLES TIMMERMAN and DOUW VAN O'LINDA;

Assessors - JOHN EVERSON, WILLIAM B. HOUSEN and GILBERT S. VAN DEUSEN;

Collector - HENRY W. STAATS;

Clerk - HENRY VAN O'LINDA.

The minutes of the first village board meeting were destroyed. (1) The population of the territory which was incorporated was 875. R. H. Cushney, as first elected trustee was therefore first mayor.

Thus with the incorporation of Fonda the ancient name of Caughnawaga was formally superseded by the name of the family which had been so prominent in the annals of the neighborhood for a hundred years, and the old village of Caughnawaga, which name the Dutch had taken from the Indians, was overshadowed.

BRIDGES

Early communication with the south side of the river, where pioneers were settling what later became Fultonville, was carried on by means of a ferry plied from Douw Fonda's trading post. Not until 1811 was a bridge built across at this point and it was promptly carried away the next year by the spring ice. The second bridge was built in 1823 by the Caughnawaga Bridge Company which had been chartered by the Laws of New York State in 1823. The second bridge, like the first, was swept away by the flood of March 17th, 1865. The bridge which was built in the summer of 1865 was a Free Bridge whereas the earlier ones were Toll.

The Main Street was paved in 1868.

THE F. J. & G. R. R.

The Fonda, Johnstown and Gloversville Railroad Company was organized June 16, 1867 and after overcoming many obstacles succeeded in completing its line of tracks after three years of work.

(1) Additional details on Caughnawaga will be found in the introdu-

COMPLIMENTS OF

Oneida Market

FONDA, N. Y.

THE FINEST IN
GROCERIES — MEATS
AT LOWEST PRICES

CONGRATULATIONS

—FROM—

Socony Service Station

LEITT and OARE

- TIRES
- TUBES
- MOBILGAS
- MOBILOIL
- LUBRICATION

WEST MAIN ST.

PHONE 99-151

FONDA, N. Y.



First Electric Trolley Car to Arrive in Fonda 1890. This Line Ran Until Discontinued in 1937. Prominent Officials and Citizens May be Seen in and About the Car.



Fonda-Fultonville Horse Car Line. Operated from 1874 to 1884. The Driver is Lou Huntley.

TO THE
Village of Fonda

CONGRATULATIONS FROM

A FRIEND

SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

COMPLIMENTS OF

Iva Knitting Mills

MANUFACTURERS OF SILK, RAYON, NYLON,

AND COTTON WARP KNIT FABRICS

ALMOND C. LIPPIE, Owner

GLOVERSVILLE, N. Y.

The line was officially opened in 1870, and was extended to Northville in 1876. Some years later the Cayadutta Electric Railroad between Fonda and Johnstown was built and Cayadutta Park developed for the use of excursionists. This short road became a part of the Schenectady Railways Company, which was subsequently incorporated into the F. J. & G. Railroad Company and was discontinued in 1937.

FONDA-FULTONVILLE HORSE RAILROAD

A charter was granted on October 6, 1874 for a horse railroad to operate between Fonda and Fultonville. The principal owner was Nicholas H. Decker of New York and the directors included the following from Fonda: John D. Berry, Dewitt C. Johnson, Isaac M. Davis (treasurer), Edward L. Kellog, Alphonso Barber and Henry B. Cushney (secretary). The road was 5200 feet long and extended from the corner of Broadway on Main Street to the Donaldson Block in Fultonville. The charter was issued for a term of two hundred years but on July 11, 1884 the directors resolved to discontinue the line as a poor investment, although apparently it was a great convenience to the residents of the two hamlets.

1173269

WATER SUPPLY

With the gradual growth of the village there arose a need and a demand for a water supply. The first water for the village had been provided by three public wells situated respectively on Broadway beside the present Burtch Block, on Main Street near Wyman's Drug Store, and in the rear of the Clute building by the lane leading to the rear of the business area. The project calling for a new water supply was put to a vote of the taxpayers and was carried by a large majority. In the fall of 1885 the work was completed. A reservoir was built on the Sand Flats and was fed by springs and is now referred to as the Old Reservoir. Pipes were laid through the principal streets, the whole project amounting to \$25,000.00. In 1902 the system was enlarged by acquisition of land from the Stoller farm at Hickory Hill. A new reservoir was constructed here, known as the upper reservoir, and a new pipeline was laid from this site to the old reservoir at a cost of \$32,000. The upper reservoir was enlarged in 1931 at a cost of \$30,000 and a meter system was put in service in the village with quarterly water rent collection, now collected semi-annually. Since construction of the upper reservoir, the lower reservoir has served merely as a reserve supply.

The first water Commissioners of the village were: George Jones, President; Robert B. Gillis, Secretary; James Y. Van Antwerp, Treasurer; Francis S. Fritcher and Josiah S. Feltis, Commissioners. These gentlemen met on June 22, 1885 and adopted "Rules and Regulations for the Management of the Water Supply of the Fonda Water Works."

COMPLIMENTS OF

M. L. HARRIS

Transportation Co.

FULTONVILLE, N. Y.

COMPLIMENTS OF

Beacon Grain Store

● BEACON FEEDS ● BEACON SERVICE

FULTONVILLE, N. Y.

THE NATIONAL MOHAWK RIVER BANK

This bank was first the Mohawk River Bank, of Fonda, N. Y. Articles of incorporation were filed January 2, 1856; a State charter was granted as an Associated Free Bank; the date of expiration of the charter or privileges was to January 1, 1956. The original capital stock was \$100,000.00.

FIRST STATEMENT OF BANK

Assembly Documents 1858. Document No. 4, Page 129. Statement showing the condition of the banks of New York State, on the morning of Saturday, the 27th day of December, 1856.

Mohawk River Bank, Fonda (Agent: Bank of the Capital, Albany, N. Y.).

Capital	\$100,000.00
Notes in circulation	64,689.00
Profits	2,677.00
Due banks	2,630.00
Due individuals and corporation	2,500.00
Due depositors on demand	11,596.00
<hr/>	
Total liabilities	\$184,093.00

RESOURCES

Loans and discounts	\$ 51,218.00
Due from banks	7,210.00
Real estate	5,000.00
Specie	1,283.00
Cash items	1,836.00
Stocks and promisory notes	102,500.00
Bills of solvent banks	2,082.00
Loss and expense account	12,962.00
<hr/>	
Total resources	\$184,093.00

JAMES M. COOK, superintendent of banks

The first board of directors were Daniel Livingston, David Livingston, George Livingston, James Livingston, Joseph Spraker, Fraser Spraker, Abraham J. Davis, Richard H. Cushney, William B. Devendorf, Isaac S. Frost, Simeon Snow and John Bowdish.

The first officers were Daniel Spraker, president; John Bowdish, vice-president; Earl S. Gillett, cashier; Horace Van Evera, teller.

The Mohawk River Bank was organized and did business under the banking laws of New York State until 1865, and it was then re-organized under the laws of the United States as a National Bank. The name was changed to The National Mohawk River Bank, of Fonda, N. Y. The old officers and directors continued in their respective positions. The capital stock remained unchanged.

The bank has had only three presidents since its formation 96 years ago. Daniel Spraker, the first president, served for 41 years from 1856 to 1897; J. Ledlie Hees for 43 years from 1897 to 1940; and in 1940, W. Barent Wemple was elected president.

CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE
VILLAGE OF FONDA
FROM
Aris Fabric Corporation
FONDA, N. Y.

BEST WISHES TO THE
VILLAGE OF FONDA
ON THIS 100TH ANNIVERSARY
Coca-Cola Bottling Co.
GLOVERSVILLE, N. Y.

The following men have served as cashier: Earl S. Gillett from 1856 to 1886; J. Ledlie Hees, from January 12, 1886 to January 12, 1897; J. J. Veeder, from January 12, 1897 to January 1936. Harold Shinaman was elected cashier in January 1936.

The present officers of the bank are: President, W. Barent Wemple; vice-president, James T. Bergen; cashier, Harold H. Shinaman; secretary, Jay H. Leonhardt; assistant cashier, James A. McGibbon; teller, Dorothy Graham.

THE NEWSPAPERS

When the county seat of Montgomery County was moved in 1836 from Johnstown to the then newly founded village of Fonda, Philip Reynolds jr., brought down from Johnstown the "Johnstown Herald" and, changing its name to the "Fonda Herald" issued its first number as such on June 24, 1836. The Herald was published on the west second floor of the former Saltsman block on Main Street.

In 1841 William S. Hawley purchased the "Herald" and edited it two years when it was sold in 1843 to Matthew Freeman and Darius V. Berry, who changed the name to the "Fonda Sentinel." Mr. Berry sold his interest in 1846 to Mr. Freeman, who conducted it alone for two or three years, when he sold it to Junot J. Whitehouse.

The next proprietor seems to have been Walter N. Clark, of Johnstown, who did not take up residence in Fonda, but sent down his brother-in-law, Lockwood Gibbs, to take charge. At this time the old type was so worn that a presentable paper could not be produced and Mr. Clark, being owner of three papers, the Fulton County Democrat, the Hamilton Sentinel and the Fonda Sentinel, had all three printed in Schenectady and sent up for distribution to their respective fields. All the papers were printed alike except a change in the heads. At this time the plant for job work was located on the second floor of the post office building, on Main Street, which burned in 1912. (The DeLaurendis block was built on the post office site). Later Mr. Clark took in a partner named Thayer, but his connection was of short duration.

Isaac M. Gregory became the editor and manager of the paper about this time, under Mr. Clark's ownership, and later became an eminent journalist. Mr. Clark removed the plant to the McIntyre block and added type and material for job work, but did not print the paper. (The McIntyre block was located on the corner of Main and North Center Streets where the "Hand Diner" now stands.)

On April 5, 1855, William S. Hawley established in Canajoharie the "American Star." After five weeks it was removed to Fonda and printed in the present Reformed Church parsonage, on the second floor. Charles B. Freeman soon acquired an interest in it and the name was changed to "Mohawk Valley American." Mr. Hawley owned the type and Mr. Freeman the press. About October 1, 1857, Hawley and Freeman had a disagreement and the latter engaged Richard VanAntwerp of Hudson to enter his employ, using Hawley's type and Freeman's press. The next spring Freeman bought new

**CONGRATULATIONS
AND BEST WISHES
FONDA CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE**

IN APPRECIATION OF
PLEASANT, FRIENDLY
RELATIONS



**Hunter's Granite
Works, Inc.**

GLOVERSVILLE
PHONE 2198

"BEST IN CEMETERY MEMORIALS"

COMPLIMENTS OF
S. O. SPENCER COAL COMPANY
FONDA, N. Y.

Anthracite and Bituminous Coal

ESTABLISHED 1937

type and removed with his press from the parsonage to the second floor of an eating house which stood where the FJ&G turntable now stands. This building burned on the night of December 25, 1858, involving a total loss to the printing plant. No site being available in Fonda, Mr. Freeman, after purchasing complete new equipment, removed the plant to Fultonville and printed the "American" in the little brick building on the tow-path, west of Main Street.

On April 1, 1860, it was moved to the third floor of the Wiles block (Philbrook Bros. present owners) and remained there until April 1, 1864, when Freeman and VanAntwerp formed a partnership and purchased the "Fonda Sentinel" of Walter N. Clark, removed their plant to Fonda, consolidated the Mohawk Valley American with the Sentinel and called it the "Mohawk Valley Democrat." Upon VanAntwerp's death in October 1868, Mr. Freeman purchased the interest from the widow and conducted the Democrat alone until its sale to John E. Ashe & Co., about 1876. At the time of the consolidation in 1864, the plants of the two papers were removed to the second floor of a wooden building at the corner of Main and Center Streets, which later burned, on the site of the present Democrat plant. However, before that building burned, the plant had been removed to the second floor of the Jansen block on Main Street and here it suffered a total loss by fire while owned by J. W. F. Ruttenber, who had purchased it only a short time before from Ashe & Co.

While the paper was still under the ownership of John E. Ashe, with James Shanahan and State Comptroller Edward Wemple, Mr. Ashe conducted the business alone. It was during this period that it became the recognized organ for the Democratic party in Montgomery County. It occupied the whole second floor of the building and was equipped with new type and presses throughout.

Fortunately, just prior to the fire, the press had been removed for shipment to Gloversville and Edward Ostrander purchased it and removed it to the second floor of the "old stone store" where the Burtch block now stands.

Upon Ostrander's death the "Democrat" was sold to John H. Weinmann, (1891) former principal of the Fonda High School. While the paper was in his hands the stone store burned and again the plant was a total loss. It was then started up, with new equipment in the Cook block (Saltsman Hotel) on the first floor, thus returning to the place where it was first printed in 1836. Later it was removed to the Folmsbee block.

Mr. Weinmann sold it in 1902 to a company whose principal stockholders were Jacob Snell, Elmer E. Folmsbee and Leonard F. Fish. For the first time in its history it was made a Republican party organ and so conducted through two ownerships for 10 years, the late Frank L. Rogers purchasing it in 1907. In 1902 the name was changed to "Fonda Democrat."

William B. Wemple purchased it of Mr. Rogers May 1, 1912, changed its name back to "Mohawk Valley Democrat" and its politics to that of a Democratic sheet. The plant was removed to the

Community Club of Fultonville

EXTENDS TO THE
VILLAGE OF FONDA
CONGRATULATIONS
ON ITS
100TH ANNIVERSARY



BAUDER
GAS & ELECTRIC
Fort Plain Canajoharie
—O—
GAS and ELECTRIC
APPLIANCES



—O—
Metered Gas Service

Clute building August 1, 1915, where it was formerly located in 1864.

Since the death of Mr. Wemple in January 1924, the plant has been under the management of his son, W. Barent Wemple, the present editor, and is owned by Mrs. William B. Wemple. In September 1930 it was removed from the Clute Building to its present location at the southeast corner of Main and Center Streets.

Darius V. Berry, who, with Matthew Freeman, purchased the paper in 1843, was a great grandfather of the present editor. The "Democrat" is a member of "The American Press Century Club" which indicates that the "Mohawk Valley Democrat" has been in continuous publication for over 100 years.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

The water-power afforded by the Cayadutta Creek led, at a very early date, to the establishment of grist and saw mills by Johannes Veeder and later a flour mill by Mr. Veeder. During the Revolutionary War, the Veeder mill was used as a block house. The building was a heavily-timbered structure and stood on the west side of the creek, on the present road bed of the N. Y. C. R. R. The Wemple mill stood some distance up the creek.

About 1800 the Fonda and Davis Pottery works was located near the old schoolhouse in Caughnawaga. They also made brick.

A cotton mill was run for about five years by a company organized in 1811, consisting of John and Simon Veeder, G. Van Deusen, Henry Fonda and Myndert Wemple. The capital stock was \$5,000. A woolen mill and carding machine for custom work was also started by the same firm. In 1825 Simon I. Veeder rented the building, and started a satinnet factory, which he continued until 1830 when he sold to John Booth, who operated the factory until 1843, when he died. The property passed into the hands of J. V. A. Wemple and J. V. Wemple, and the buildings were used as a threshing machine manufactory. In 1860 the property passed into the hands of George F. Mills & Brother., who had been in business at Fonda since 1849, in what was known as the upper mills (grist and flour). This mill had a run of four stone, with a capacity of 150 barrels per day, and was devoted exclusively to supplying the wholesale trade. This firm also produced and dealt largely in plaster and lumber.

In 1860 the firm of Wood and Peek built a shop on the south side of Main Street, just east of Cayadutta Creek. The firm manufactured wagons and carriages.

In 1890 the citizens of Fonda, subscribed a large sum of money to start a knitting mill, which was built and operated by John and Robert Owen, until it was destroyed by fire about 1892. Later the mill was rebuilt by a company having a capital of \$52,000, but the enterprise proved unsuccessful. Later James Shanahan became its owner, and it was operated by him with John E. Ashe and William S. Briggs. This firm was disbanded in 1898 when Lucius Littauer bought the property at a foreclosure sale and reorganized the busi-

ITS RIGHT

IF ITS



OUR 57TH YEAR

White Mop Wringer Co.

Fultonville, N. Y.

ness. In June 1902 Mr. Littauer incorporated the Fonda Glove Lining Co. with a capital of \$100,000 which has since been increased to \$505,000. This corporation has operated successfully since its founding, manufacturing a variety of wool and cotton linings and fleeces, and is today Fonda's leading industry.

One of the first merchants in this section was Douw A. Fonda, who had a trading post on the present Montgomery County Fair Grounds. After the war, Gen. Dodge opened a place of business in Caughnawaga.

In 1842 N. Webster opened the first drug store, which was later purchased by McIntyre & Briggs.

About 1830 M. O. Davis started a mercantile business, and in 1844 I. M. Davis became a clerk in his father's store. In the following year he formed a partnership with his father, under the firm name M. O. Davis and Son. The father retiring in 1849. When I. M. Davis took Mr. W. Teller in as a partner, Teller remained until 1855. Mr. Davis then went into the hardware business, and continued it alone until 1861, from which time Mr. Mathew Moore was a partner until 1867, since then he carried on a general mercantile business alone until his son E. Corning Davis became a partner in 1885. After I. M. Davis' death, his son carried on the business until 1917, when he liquidated the business.

George F. Putman and son started a carriage business in 1840 and were located on Main Street. (See appendix for list of business establishments located in Fonda in 1850).

THE FONDA REFORMED CHURCH



**Old Caughnawaga Dutch Reformed Church, Erected 1763,
Torn Down in 1861.**

The pioneer settlers in the United States were a people imbued with a determination to work and fight for their ideals of freedom, involving a society governed by the laws of God. Wherever they went their first act in forming settlements was to provide for churches and schools.

In this locality the Reformed Dutch Church of Caughnawaga was created in 1754, as an outpost of the church in Schenectady, though records were not compiled until four years later. At first the congregation met in any available building but soon began to build themselves a permanent church building.

The land for the church, comprising five acres, was given by Douw Fonda and Johannes Vrooman, by deed dated March 5, 1763, to the church trustees, Cornelius Smith, Johannes Veeder, and Johannes E. Van Epps. This deed is now in the Montgomery County Department of History and Archives. Also on record is the will of Douw Fonda, which says in part, "It is ordered that where we now

COMPLIMENTS OF

Shelp & Warner Co.

AMSTERDAM, N. Y.

MAKE	WE
OUR STORE	SELL
YOUR	
HEADQUARTERS	INTERNATIONAL
FOR	TRUCKS
FARM EQUIPMENT	

24 RIVER ST., PHONE 3636

192 WEST MAIN ST.,
PHONE 3577-R

COMPLIMENTS OF

The Elm Store

FONDA'S 5c—\$5 STORE

MAIN STREET,

FONDA, N. Y.

have our church yard, there it shall remain, 150 square feet, for a church yard forever."

The church was a massive, almost square limestone building, with the gable end facing the road, and the entrance on the east side. Above the entrance was an oval tablet bearing the inscription in Dutch, from the prophet Isaiah, "Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths."

The pulpit stood against the western wall, a little five-sided structure on a slender support, reached by the narrowest of stairways and canopied by a sounding board. A similar high pulpit can still be seen in the old Fort Herkimer Church. The pews were high walled and square, with a door at the end. A space at the north had benches for slaves and Indians.

The area served by this church at first comprised all the territory from Schenectady westward, and north and south as far as a man could travel or ride. Later as churches were erected in neighboring communities, the records of this church show a corresponding decrease in the number of names.

The complete summary of all the church records show that since the coming of the first stated pastor, the Rev. Thomas Romeyn, in 1771, there have been a total of 2,501 communicant members. The records beginning in 1758 show a total of 6,813 baptisms; and there were 3,486 marriages since the year 1770.

The old stone church, far from remaining forever, was used 75 years. Then internal dissensions in church affairs broke up the congregation, and the property was later sold. It was used for a time as a school, then a home, and finally torn down.



Present Fonda Reformed Church Erected 1843 at Center and Railroad Streets, and Moved in 1868 to Present Location.

CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE

Village of Fonda

ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY

OF ITS INCORPORATION

**Fonda Glove Lining
Company**

FONDA, N. Y.

In the year 1843, the year after the old church was sold, a new one was built on the corner of Center and Railroad Streets, and this in 1868 was moved to its present, more desirable location, where it has been enlarged and improved to be the edifice in which we now worship.

The following have served this church as pastors:

The Rev. Barent Vrooman, (a supply from Schenectady)	1758- 1770
The Rev. Thomas Romeyn, (first stated pastor)	1771- 1794
The Rev. Abraham Van Horne	1795- 1833
The Rev. Isaac S. Ketcham, (co-pastor)	1832-
The Rev. Robert A. Quinn	1833- 1835
The Rev. Jacob D. Fonda	1836- 1842
The Rev. Andrew Yates, (acting pastor)	1842- 1844

These men led the congregation while it worshipped in the old Caughnawaga Church.

The following pastors served the Reformed Church while it was located on the corner of Center and Railroad Streets:

The Rev. Douw Van O'Linda	1844- 1858
The Rev. Philip Furbeck	1859- 1862
The Rev. Washington Frothingham	1863- 1864

The church edifice was moved to its present location on the corner of Broadway and prospect Streets during the pastorate of the Rev. John C. Boyd. His pastorate extended from 1865-1870.

Continuing the line of ministers were:

The Rev. Thomas W. Jones	1870- 1882
The Rev. John A. DeBaun, D. D.	1883- 1900
The Rev. John C. Boyd, (supply)	1900- 1902
The Rev. J. Collings Caton	1902- 1904
The Rev. William J. Lonsdale	1904- 1910
The Rev. Henry C. Cussler	1911- 1927
The Rev. Jesse Durfee	1927- 1931
The Rev. Putnam Cady, D. D.	1931- 1939
The Rev. Harold J. Hoffman, (became chaplain, U. S. Army, April, 1943)	1940- 1944
The Rev. Putnam Cady, D. D., (supply)	1943- 1945
The Rev. William B. Miller	1945- 1946
The Rev. Gerard J. Koster	1947-

All but five of these faithful pastors have gone to join the church triumphant. The Rev. William J. Lonsdale is retired, and lives at New Woodstock, N. Y. The Rev. Jesse Durfee was just recently installed as the pastor of the Reformed Church at Guttenberg, N. J. Dr. Putnam Cady is also retired, and lives on the Fonda-Johnstown road. Dr. Cady is still in continual demand as a supply minister. Mrs. Cady is the organist and choir director of the church. The Rev. Harold J. Hoffman is the pastor of a flourishing church in a brand new post-war community in Levittown, N. Y., on Long Island. The Rev. William B. Miller was called from Fonda to the Bible Department of Hope College, and has since taken up pastoral

CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE
VILLAGE OF FONDA
on Its 100th Anniversary
FROM THE
Town of Mohawk

Seymour O. Spencer
SUPERVISOR

E. J. McKeough — **Howard Bell**
JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Eli Smith — **Floyd J. Dennis**
COUNCILMEN

Patrick Compani
TOWN CLERK

Lansing S. Thornton
ATTORNEY

J. Clifford Cudney
SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS

Earl Gray **Edward Kruger**
Ernest Duesler
ASSESSORS

work once more at the Covenant Reformed Church, Muskegon Heights, Mich.

We rejoice that we still have amongst us members of former pastors' families. Mrs. Henry C. Cussler resides in our village, as do Mrs. W. Schenck Martin and Mrs. George Smith, daughters of Dr. John A. DeBaun.

Many of the family names appearing on the first church records, and among its officers, are today still appearing among the active members and officers of the congregation. Thus old families as well as newer families, who are always welcome, still find joy and fellowship as we worship the God of our fathers, singing the old hymn:

"Faith of our fathers, holy faith,
We will be true to thee 'till death."

We are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the Village of Fonda, but for almost 200 years the Reformed Church has been maintaining herself as a part of the Church Universal. That church is thus described in our Belgic Confession of Faith: "We believe and profess one Catholic or Universal Church, which is an holy congregation of true Christian believers, all expecting their salvation in Jesus Christ, being washed by His blood, sanctified and sealed by the Holy Ghost. This church hath been from the beginning of the world, and will be to the end thereof; which is evident from this, that Christ is an eternal King, which, without subjects, cannot be. And this holy church is preserved or supported by God against the rage of the whole world; though she sometimes (for a while) appear very small, and in the eyes of men, to be reduced to nothing: as during the perilous reign of Ahab, the Lord reserved unto Him 7,000 men, who had not bowed their knees to Baal. Furthermore, this holy church is not confined, bound, or limited to a certain place or to certain persons, but is spread and dispersed over the whole world; and yet is joined and united with heart and will, by the power of faith in one and the same spirit."

Albert D. Fonda
William S. Lotridge
D. Robert Persse
Centennial Committee

METHODISM IN FONDA (1842-1950)

In the history of Fonda Methodism is found visitations of the circuit riders who stopped off in traveling their circuits and preached to such small groups as could be assembled. It is improbable that these riders refrained from preaching to the people of a section so well developed; and when it became known that the village was to be enlarged by building up a new part to the west of Caughnawaga and was to be made the County Seat, these early far-sighted leaders saw the opening for building up a strong society and un-

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doubtedly started regular preaching which finally resulted in the organization of the church in 1842.

The Rev. P. Moriarty, passing through Fonda, stopped and preached the first sermon of which there is any record, and Tobias Spicer the second (statement by H. I. Dockstader in 1878.) The first pastor was appointed in 1842. His first sermon was in June in the Old Courthouse, and his text was: "I am determined to know nothing among you save Jesus Christ and Him Crucified." He then proceeded to organize a church of seven members. Soon after this a quarterly meeting was held, also in the Courthouse, and was attended by members from Canajoharie, Johnstown and Amsterdam. What is now Fonda consisted, in 1835, of a tavern, a few houses, a fulling mill and a small store. The surrounding lands were owned by the Fonda family and sold to John Borst who came here in 1835 and planned a site for a new village west of Caughnawaga and who, as an inducement to the growth of his real estate investment presented land for public purposes. Even though there is a deed which states that the trustees paid \$200 for the land on which the church stands, it is believed that Mr. Borst presented the land as a site for the erection of a church building.(1)

A wooden building 20' x 30' was erected at a cost of \$1400. The Rev. T. W. Pierson supervised the work. The money was raised by subscription and the edifice dedicated free of debt in the fall of 1842 by Dr. Goss the presiding elder. Immediately after the dedication

(1) The Rev. E. A. Blanchard writing in 1878.



Former Methodist Church Built in 1843 and
Destroyed by Fire in 1912.

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a revival began in which 70 new members were added. The following year it was decided the building was too small and it was disposed of.

The second edifice was built in 1843 when the Rev. S. Parks was pastor. It was 40' x 51' and built near the rear of the lot. Eight feet of the front was a porch with large pillars. There was a small belfry, open, with pillars and square in form. The edifice was of wood. George W. King furnished the long timbers and David Fritcher, then a boy, drew them with Mr. King's team.(2)

There were repairs made in 1863 when a new roof was put on and an alcove added to the rear of the church. Further repairs and decoration of the interior took place in 1868-1869. A new bell replaced the one cracked by ringing it one fourth of July.

A few minutes after eight o'clock on the evening of Friday, April 12 the cry of "fire" was heard. The local fire company responded but it soon became apparent that a great conflagration was imminent and outside help was summoned. The neighboring Village of Fultonville lent willing hands.

The following is a newspaper account of the burning of the church taken from the Mohawk Valley Democrat:

"The origin of the flames is known to have been in the Briggs Drug Store, but the exact cause remains to be determined, although the general belief is that it was due to the explosion of chemicals in the rear part of the building where quantities of paint and oil were stored. The fire spread rapidly to the adjoining property to the east containing the post office and the cigar and news room of John W. Davis. The Methodist Church to the west was the next prey to the flames and like the two other structures was soon reduced to ruins.

"Nothing remained of the Methodist Church Saturday morning except a portion of the walls, ominously threatening to fall any minute. The hazardous work of razing the useless shell was at once undertaken and was witnessed by a throng of spectators, many of whom came from a distance to see the ruins. The building had but recently been renovated and new furnishings installed. Stories of acts of heroism and narrow escapes from death were frequently heard on the day following the fire."

The present brick edifice was built at a cost of \$10,490.00 and was dedicated in 1913. In April 1940 the Fonda and Fultonville Churches were united into one charge, both parishes being operated as independent organizations, and adjusting the hours of services and meetings. Both parsonages are being maintained, the pastor choosing where he wishes to reside.

The Women's Society of Christian Service is the one large active group in the church. Their loyal and generous contributions help materially the financial needs of the church. An active Sunday school, Youth Fellowship and a junior choir recognize the place of youth in the family of Methodism in Fonda.

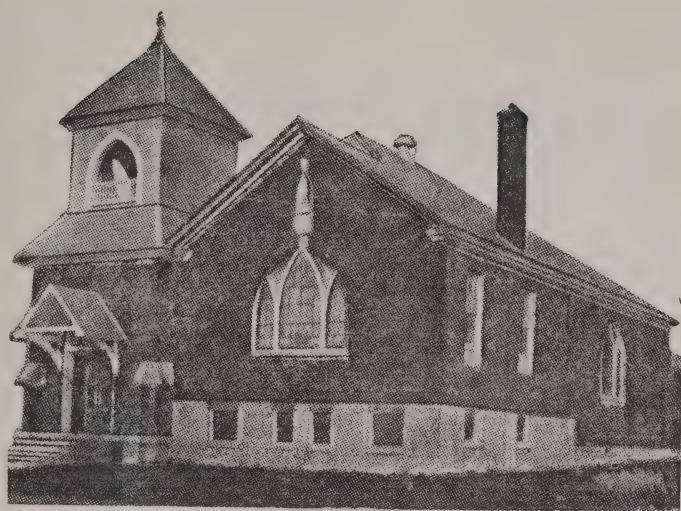
(2) Statement of David Fritcher in 1878.

*“Swing To
Beech-Nut Gum”*

BEECH-NUT PACKING
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INCORPORATED 1899

CANAJOHARIE, N. Y.



Present Fonda Methodist Church Erected in 1912-13 and Dedicated March 11, 1913.

Pastors who have served the church from 1842-1950:

T. W. Pierson	1842	M. A. Veeder	1873-74
S. Parks	1843	B. F. Livingston	1875-77
Daniel Page	1844-45	E. A. Blanchard	1878
Myron White	1846-47	Frederick Widner	1879
Horace Warner	1848	Damas Brough	1880-81
G. S. Simmons	1849-50	Milton Tattor	1882-83
W. W. Pierce	1851	George W. Browne	1884-86
A. W. Garcin	1852-53	L. A. Dibble	1887-88
James Tubbs	1854	J. W. Quinlan	1889-91
Seth W. Brown	1855-56	George W. Browne	1892
William Wilmott	1857	E. S. Morey	1893-95
John Pegg	1858	W. W. Eaton	1896-99
H. S. Sexton	1859	J. W. Quinlan	1900
A. Champlain	1860	J. W. Schwartzman	1901-05
Zebulon Phillips	1861-62	G. W. Woodall	1906-07
Jonas Phillips	1863	B. B. Loomis	1908
M. A. Carroll	1864	H. S. Allen	1909-10
H. L. Grant	1865-67	C. F. Noble	1911-13
P. P. Harrower	1868-69	Edward J. Cummings	1914-19
H. L. Starks	1870-72	Martin J. Overholzer	1920-23
Harry J. Smith	1924-25	H. H. Richardson	1934-39
George H. Pettingell	1926-30	Herbert S. Roberts	1940-44
Timothy Meek	1931-32	Fred R. Brown	1944-48
Malcolm F. Kelley	1933	Harry J. White	1948-

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OF
Amsterdam
New York

ST. CECILIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Indian Village of Caughnawaga

The first Catholic Church in this vicinity was St. Peter's Chapel in the Indian village of Caughnawaga on the high ground to the rear of the present Tekakwitha Friary and Chapel just west of Fonda. The chapel was built about 1669 after Fathers Pierron, S. J. and Boniface, S. J. had come from Canada to minister to the Christian Mohawk Indians. In 1675 Father James de Lamberville, S. J. arrived at Caughnawaga, replacing Father Boniface.

On Easter Sunday, April 18, 1676, the Indian maiden, Tekakwitha, was baptized in St. Peter's Chapel, taking the name Catherine (Kateri in the language of the Mohawks). She had been born and as a child had lived on the south bank of the Mohawk River, near the present site of Auriesville. But after the Mohawk Indian castles and villages on the south bank of the river had been destroyed by a war party of French soldiers and Canadian Indians and were being rebuilt on the north bank, she, together with her relatives and neighbors, came from Auriesville to Caughnawaga. Both of her parents had died in a smallpox epidemic some years before and she was then under the guardianship of her pagan uncle. After embracing Christianity, Tekakwitha was subjected to such bitter persecution from her pagan uncle and his followers that she fled for her safety from the Caughnawaga on the Mohawk to the Christian Indian village of Caughnawaga on the Canadian side of the St. Lawrence. A few years later the Jesuit missionaries were banished from the Mohawk Valley and St. Peter's Chapel was closed.

The First White Settlement of Catholics

In the year 1772 about 300 Scotch and Irish Catholics settled in the Caughnawaga area at the invitation of Sir William Johnson. They were spiritually attended by an Irish priest, the Rev. John McKenna. Their stay, however, was very brief. Evidently because they were comparative strangers in the country and spoke only the Gaelic language, they understood little or nothing of the growing dissensions between the American Colonists and the British Government. At the outbreak of the Revolution, they were looked upon with suspicion and regarded as Tories. Before the spring of 1776 they withdrew from their hostile surroundings in the Mohawk Valley to Glengarry in the Province of Ontario, Canada.

St. Cecilia's Parish

Prior to 1850 and as early as the building of the canal and the railroad, Catholic services were conducted in private homes by priests coming to this locality at irregular intervals from Albany, Troy, Utica and Rome. In 1850 St. Patrick's of Johnstown was established first as a mission and a few years later as a parish with resident priest. Catholics living in the Fonda area were included

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ON ITS 100TH BIRTHDAY

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within the limits of the Johnstown parish and in the subsequent years records of baptisms and burials of Fonda Catholics appeared on the books of St. Patrick's Church.

In 1875 the first church was built on Main Street and dedicated under the patronage of St. Cecilia by the Rev. John F. Lowery, then pastor of St. Patrick's of Johnstown, as a mission to be attended from St. Patrick's. In 1882 the Rev. F. D. McGuire was appointed as pastor and St. Cecilia's became a parish with resident priest. Father McGuire was succeeded by the Rev. J. J. O'Brien in November of the same year. During Father O'Brien's administration a plot of ground, approximately five acres, on the hill north of Fonda, near the Johnstown plank road, was acquired from James Conies and wife to serve as a cemetery.

Father O'Brien was succeeded in March 1887 by the Rev. James Flood. In May of the following year a new church site was acquired at the northeast corner of Main and Bridge Streets. It was held for some years but as the prospects of building a new church did not materialize, the site was eventually sold. In July 1888 the Rev. John G. Dolan succeeded Father Flood and remained until the summer of 1900 when he was succeeded by the Rev. James T. Driscoll. Father Driscoll was an eminent scholar. As president of St. Joseph's Seminary at Dunwoodie, N. Y. and later while engaged in parochial work in New Rochelle, N. Y. he had written many of the articles for the Catholic Encyclopedia. While in Fonda he continued to devote much of his time to writing and many of his contributions appeared in newspapers of the vicinity and in other publications. Among all the pastors of Fonda Father Driscoll's administration covered the longest span of years. He remained until November, 1915, when he was succeeded by the Rev. John J. Meagher. Father Meagher remained only three years and was succeeded by two other brief incumbencies of the Rev. E. J. Themm from 1918 to 1919 and of the Rev. Edward F. Dalton from 1919 to 1923.

Space does not permit recounting the individual accomplishments of these former pastors. The older parishioners hold them in grateful remembrance for their many services and sacrifices in a church becoming too small for the growing parish and in a rectory, on Montgomery Terrace just off Bridge Street, unsuitable principally by its location on the hillside and at a distance from the church.

The Present Church

In the early autumn of 1923 the Rev. Joseph M. O'Connor succeeded Father Dalton and on October 8 of that year purchased the present site at Broadway and Prospect Street. Plans for a new church were drawn by Architect Howard Daly of Amsterdam. The plans provided for a Tudor Gothic (flattened arch) structure, 85 by 36 feet, of face brick exterior, with Indiana limestone trim; and an interior of exposed structural timberwork, oak beamed, ceiling and quartered oak wainscoting. Ground was broken for the building June 15, 1925. Otto Brothers were the general contractors. The cornerstone was laid August 30, 1925. The church was officially open-

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"SAY IT WITH FLOWERS"



**Present St. Cecilia's Catholic Church Erected in
1925 and Dedicated on Easter Sunday 1926.**

ed for services on Easter Sunday, April 4, 1926 and was solemnly dedicated on Sunday, August 1 of the same year.

Father O'Connor remained until 1935 when the administration of the parish was assumed by the Conventual Franciscan Fathers. The Rev. Engelbert Eichenlaub, O. F. M. Conv., served as pastor from January to August of 1935; the Rev. Anselm Sell, O. F. M. Conv., from 1935 to 1942; the Rev. John Murnane, O. F. M. Conv., from 1942 to 1948. The present pastor is the Rev. Adolph Bernholz, O. F. M. Conv. Since 1935 the Franciscan Fathers have contributed generously toward the financial reorganization of the parish and toward the maintenance and improvement of the parish property. Additional priests and brothers and even clerics from the Order's major seminary, St. Anthony-on-Hudson, Rensselaer, N. Y., at various times assisted former pastors, without remuneration. At the present time, with a healthy growth in membership, with a flourishing men's organization and with the ever increasing appreciation of parishioners of their moral and civic responsibilities, St. Cecilia's parish is firmly established as a religious and cultural influence in this community.

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ZION PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Persons connected with and attached to the Protestant Episcopal Church as well as those favorably disposed towards the same assembled at their usual place of worship, the Fonda M. E. Church, on Sunday November 6, 1864. After the service the following notice was read.



Zion Episcopal Church, Erected 1866.

"A meeting of the male persons of full age, friendly to the organization of a Protestant Episcopal Church Congregation or Society of a Protestant Episcopal Church Congregation or Society in the Village of Fonda, will be held in the M. E. Church in said village on Saturday the 19th day of November 1864 at 10 o'clock a. m. for the purpose of incorporating themselves under the act entitled "an act to provide for the incorporation of religious Societies" and the acts attending the same. At which time and place an election of Church Wardens and Vestrymen will be held."

This meeting was held as called and the Wardens chosen were Richard H. Cushney and Orlando Merrihew and the Vestrymen chosen were Samuel Cross, Henry B. Cushney, Daniel Yost, Robert Campbell, Alexander H. Mills, Edward B. Cushney, James G. Davis and Joseph S. Noyes. The title Zion Church was also given the church at this meeting. The Rev. John W. Trimble was called to the Rectorship for a term of one year at a salary of five hundred dollars commencing April 1, 1865.

Land was acquired from the Cushney family on the northwest

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MONTGOMERY
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PHONE 3-6835

Fultonville, N. Y.

corner of Main and East Streets and ground broken for the construction of the church in 1866. However, it was not completed until May 29, 1869. It was a neat stone structure costing about \$6,000 and seating 200.

Zion Church was consecrated May 29, 1869 with impressive ceremonies conducted by Bishop W. C. Doane, D. D. assisted by the resident rector, the Rev. Robert T. Howard.

The congregation was never a very large one but among the communicants were some of the established village families. During the early part of the present century the Sunday school conducted there was one of the largest in the village. Many local families remember inspiring Sunday services held in the typical Anglican stone church building presided over by the Bishops who made regular visits for purposes of confirmation, baptism and to preside at special communion services. It was a sad day when, in the late thirty's, the wardens and vestrymen of Zion Church, after long and prayerful consideration, decided that the congregation was not large enough to support the church and turned the property over to the Protestant Episcopal Diocese at Albany for custody and closed the doors of Zion. A beautiful and once useful stone building now stands empty on our Main Street waiting for the ravages of time to pull it down stone by stone.

Most of the rectors who served Zion were missionary priests who came from other charges to minister to the communicants. Many of them came from St. Johns of Johnstown. Those who followed the Rev. Howard, who resigned April 18, 1870, follow:

The Rev. James Hutchings Handy Brown	May 15, 1870 - Sept. 26, 1871
The Rev. Hobart Cook	Nov. 12, 1871 - Oct. 1, 1872
The Rev. Charles Francis Adams Bielby	Nov. 17, 1872 - Feb. 16, 1874
The Rev. R. Andrewes Poole	Mar. 22, 1874 - May, 1875
The Rev. William Lusk jr.	May 1875 - December, 1876
The Rev. Lewis Schuyler	December, 1876 - June, 1877
The Rev. Charles H. Van Dyne	June, 1877 - October, 1879
The Rev. B. T. Hall	1879
The Rev. C. C. Edmunds	1880
The Rev. W. D. Maxon	1881
The Rev. J. Streibert	1882
The Rev. Harry Lubeck	1883- 1885
The Rev. C. E. Purucken	1886- 1888
The Rev. C. C. Edmunds	1889- 1894
The Rev. C. M. Davidson	1895- 1897
The Rev. E. Norman Curry	1898- 1899
The Rev. Frederick Thompson	1900
The Rev. J. O. Drumm	1909- 1920
The Rev. Wolcott W. Ellsworth	1920- 1933
The Rev. John Oaksford	1933

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View of Civil War Encampment Which was Located on the Outskirts of Fonda in a Field at the Top of the First Hill Out of the Village on the Johnstown Road.

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**COUNTY
JUDGE**

SCHOOLS OF CAUGHNAWAGA-FONDA

The school records of Fonda go back as far as 1838, but our history proves that schools have been with us from the early days of old Caughnawaga.

The first school of which we find any historical record was the old red brick schoolhouse built by Abram A. Van Horne on the east side of the old Johnstown road in Caughnawaga. The probable date of its building was 1797 but it is quite possible that it was erected before this date. During its early years it was used only by the Van Horne family and their employees, they paying the teacher's salary and bearing any expense of the school. It was built of bricks made on-the-spot from clay dug nearby, and we know it was built well for it still stands today and is presently used as a residence.

About 1836 this old school was leased to the village as a public school in District No. 5 and continued as such until 1867 when Districts No. 5 and 8 were consolidated and became the present District No. 6. Among the teachers who served this school were A. Smith Knights and Miss Helen Johnson, a native of Fonda, who was the last teacher in the old School. In 1864 she had 81 pupils in attendance.

There was another red schoolhouse, established about 1830, located on the west side of Cayadutta Creek. It was a frame structure situated a little south of the Western Turnpike (Route 5) near where the FJ&G tracks swing out to meet the NYCRR. It was located in District No. 8. One Garry taught when the late Miss Isabelle Booth was a small child. A. Smith Knights and Thomas Beebe also taught there and Alexander H. Mills was one of the students.

When Districts No. 5 and 8 were consolidated this old school building was sold to Col. John Veeder and was moved to his farm where it was used as a carriage house. This was located across the turnpike from the site of the first bloodshed of the Revolution mentioned elsewhere in this book.

During the early years there were a number of private schools conducted in Fonda in buildings not erected for that purpose. One of these was conducted in what was known for years as the Billy Lenz blacksmith shop. The building is still standing and is next below the home of the late Henry Kelly on East Main Street. Miss Goodwin and A. Smith Knights were teachers here and the late John H. Rathman was a pupil.

In 1850 a small private school was located on a lot at the rear of the Reformed Church on Prospect Street. It was conducted by Miss Bowman and the trustees were I. M. Davis, George Simpson, Dr. I. I. Buckbee and a Mr. Conklyn. Among those who attended were Miss Helen Simpson, Luella Buckbee and Mrs. G. F. Mills. When the districts were consolidated this building was purchased by Dr. Buckbee, moved to a lot at the west end of Prospect Street and is now the residence of William T. Van Dusen.

The old Caughnawaga Church was used as an academy at one time and the old Montgomery Hotel, built in 1836 on the site of the present William Van Alstyne Service Station, served for a time as

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the Montgomery Institute, conducted by Jacob Snell Timmerman as a boarding and day pupil institute for higher learning.

Following the consolidation of the two districts into District No. 6 in 1867 the old school buildings were sold, and a frame building of four rooms, two on the ground floor and two on the second floor, was built on a plot of ground purchased in 1872 of Col. P. H. Fonda. The cost of the lot was \$1,000 and the cost of the building was about \$5,000. At the same time a strip of ground was purchased from Milton Barnes, then owner of the present Lansing Thornton home, for a street or as it was known then, the school lane, and School Street.

On the ground floor there were two rooms, one large or main room where a hundred pupils were seated, the teacher or principal occupying a platform in the east or entrance end of the room. The smaller room was known as the recitation room. One room on the second floor was used as the primary room and here Miss Belle Booth taught for many years. The other room, used as intermediate room, was where for years Miss Lilly Van Antwerp taught. A bell was purchased in 1872, new seats and an organ. In 1865-66 a man by the name of Eldred taught there as well as Miss Booth. In 1866-68 a Mr. Cornish was the principal. Hon. E. C. Davis attended school under Mr. Cornish.

In 1868-69 Thomas Beebe was principal and remained until 1872 when William Biggam became principal. During Mr. Beebe's principalship, his son Frank, later a well-known physician in Johnstown, was assistant principal. Mr. Biggam remained for only one year and in 1873 Lewis Yerdon was engaged as principal. Mr. Yerdon remained until 1886 when he resigned. During his principalship Miss Kate Wells was assistant and at her resignation Miss Carrie Biggam was engaged as assistant. When Miss Biggam resigned Miss Etta Yerdon was engaged as assistant and she was followed by her sister Miss Minnie Yerdon. The Misses Yerdons were daughters of Lewis Yerdon, the principal.

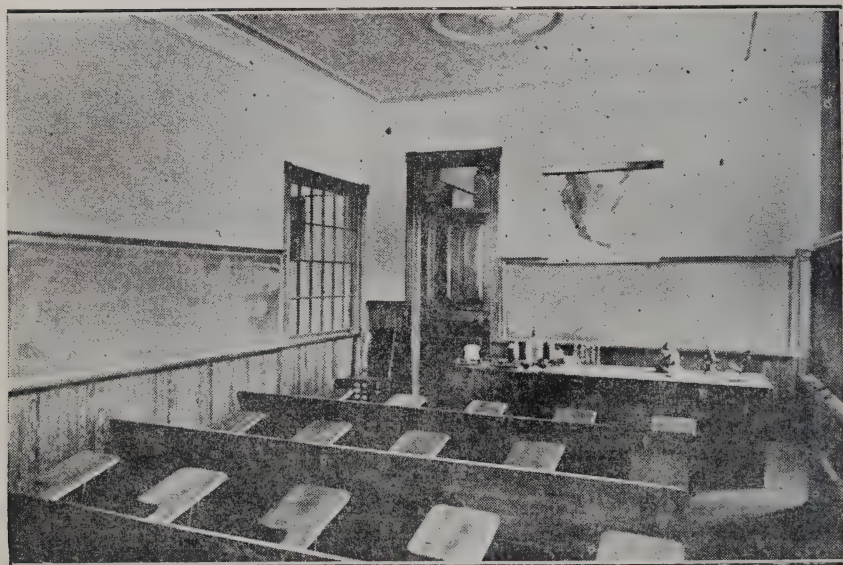
When Lewis Yerdon came to the school the building stood on an acre of bare ground, there being neither grass nor trees. One of his first acts was to get permission of the trustees to set out in formal rows, small elm trees and to cultivate a lawn as well. Today those tiny elms are a magnificent monument to his effort and memory of the two schools which once held forth there.

September 1, 1885 the District voted to build a new schoolhouse. The building was needed as the old one was sadly in need of repair and by this time quite out of date. The trustees at this time were E. B. Cushney, Matthew D. Moore and William Wood. On September 24 the old building was sold to John E. Cook for \$150. Later, when the building had to be moved, Mr. Cook sold it to Oliver Nellis for \$2,000 who moved it to West Main Street, placed it on the foundation of the old Henry Fonda Tavern of Colonial days and for a number of years it was known as the Tunecliff Hotel. Later it burned down and the West End Garage now occupies the site.

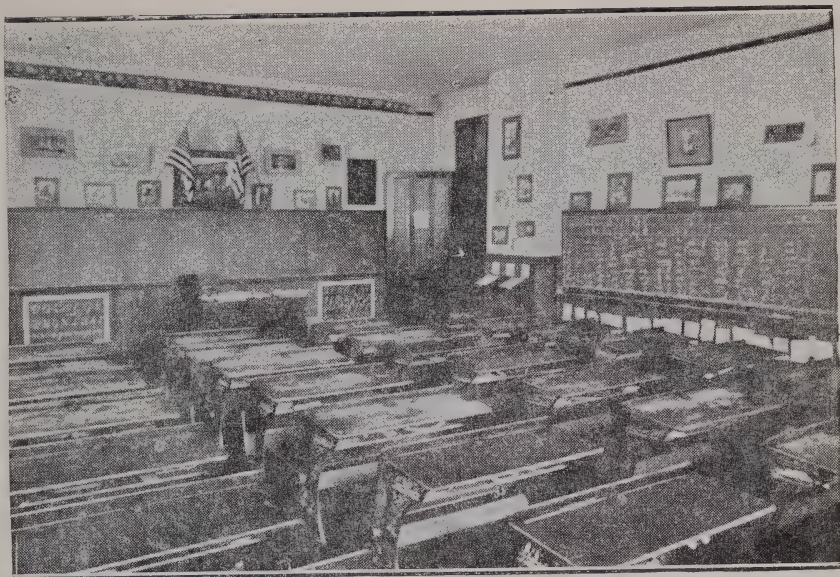
The new school building was built of brick, Three stories and a basement, costing \$10,000. The first two floors contained four



Old Fonda School Erected in 1886



Laboratory in Old Fonda High School



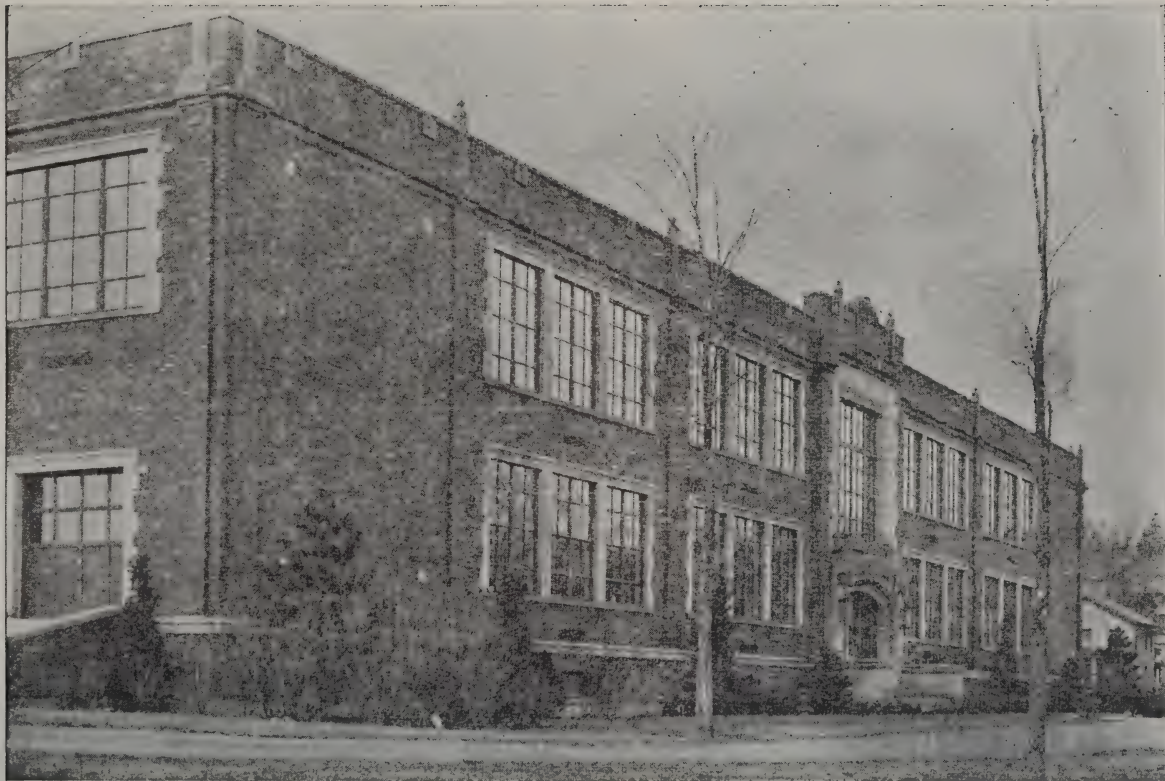
Classroom in Old Fonda High School

rooms each, the third floor fitted up as the academic Departments, the principal's office, library and experiment room. The school was made Union Free in 1887. John H. Weinman was engaged as principal in 1886 and served until 1890 when he was elected school commissioner of Montgomery County. In 1888 the school came under the New York State Board of Regents and the 40-week year was inaugurated.

Mr. Weinman was followed by Charles A. Coon. In 1897 the school became the Fonda High School and in 1898 occurred the first graduation, with four pupils in the class, namely: Charles Tobin, Henry Yates MacNeil, Edward S. Conyne and LaFayette C. Reynolds. Also graduating with this class by permission of the Board of Trustees were two young women from Johnstown, Miss Beebe, daughter of the former Fonda teacher and a noted physician of Johnstown, Dr. Frank Beebe, and a Miss Stoller. Graduating classes had been held as early as 1895 in the Fonda Union School and Academy, but this was Fonda's first high school class.

Principal Coons resigned at the end of the school year of 1898 and was succeeded by Prof. E. B. Robbins who served until the end of the year of 1903 when he resigned to become superintendent of schools in Waverly, N. Y. Principal Smith came next for one year and was followed by Webb H. Edwards who served until 1919.

A number of advancements and additions were instituted during Prof. Edwards' stay at Fonda High. Among them were the Bertha Vrooman Shanahan Memorial prize (1906); college course adopted (1907); Daughters of the American Revolution granted space in



Present Fonda High School Erected 1937-38

the library for record and historical books (1908); district nurse employed (1917); and all during Prof. Edwards' principalship he strove to train the boys in athletics and the baseball and football teams he turned out as extracurricular work will be long remembered in Fonda.

When he resigned, George F. Bowman was engaged as principal and after two years resigned to become superintendent of schools for the Eastern District, a position he still holds.

Mr. Bleecker followed Mr. Bowman and remained until 1924. During his principalship the school banking system was started. In 1923 the District voted to purchase the Col. P. H. Fonda property which adjoined the original plot purchased in 1872 and on which the present building stood. Portable buildings were erected on this plot to house the first four grades as the brick building was now becoming over crowded.

Heath E. White was engaged as principal following Mr. Bleecker. At the beginning of the school year in 1924 a senior class of 12 pupils set out to attain the goal of a State Diploma and at the commencement exercises held in the Reformed Church in June 1925, the smallest class ever to graduate from Fonda High School mounted the rostrum to deliver the Salutatory and Valedictory and receive the numerous prizes. Miss M. Eleanor Snell had this distinction with an average of 93%, being the sole member of the class to attain the goal. The next year eighth grade commencement was instituted.

In 1929 the Hon. Lucius N. Littauer made a gift to the district of \$25,000 for a gymnasium. In 1930 a physical director was added to the school faculty and for the next few years pupils were marched down School Lane, Main Street and across the railroad tracks to the new building for physical training. Harry Y. MacNeil gave the equipment for this building. In this same year (1929) the graduating class formed an alumni association. For many years this association held an annual meeting and banquet as part of the commencement week activities, welcoming each graduating class into the association. Mr. White resigned in 1930, and was succeeded by George F. DuBois who remained until 1937 when Cornelius Moynihan became principal.

The district voted to build a new schoolhouse in 1937-38, as the old building had outgrown its usefulness. The WPA offered an outright gift of \$91,440 while the district had to raise the balance of \$111,650 by taxation with the indebtedness running 30 years. As the gymnasium was already located on a seven acre lot situated on the south side of Park Street it was voted to build the new school adjoining it. Five acres was leased from the village for a period of 49 years, thus giving the school additional ground for athletic purposes.

In January 1938 work was begun on the new building. In June 1938 the trustees sold the old school property to the Art Craft Glove Corporation. On January 3, 1939, the school opened in the new school building. This is a fine modern building with provision for shop teaching and home economics in addition to well-lighted rooms for all grades. About two years ago a cafeteria was added.

COMPLIMENTS OF

**WEST END
GARAGE**

JAMES S. BROOKMAN SR.
Proprietor

EXPERT REPAIRS
ELECTRICAL SERVICE

ESSO GAS — OILS
LUBRICATION

FONDA, N. Y.

West Main St. — Phone 3-6611

COMPLIMENTS OF

**Carpenter
Hotel**

BERRYVILLE ROAD
Fonda R. D., N. Y.

— 0 —
C. CARPENTER, Prop.

COMPLIMENTS OF

D.S. Stark Co.

JOHNSTOWN, N. Y.

COMPLIMENTS OF

**FONDA
BAKERY**

FONDA, N. Y.

Upon the death of Mr. Moynihan in 1948, N. Russell Redman was named supervising principal and is now (1950) acting in that capacity.

In 1938 new regulations were instituted. Students from out-lying districts were allowed entrance without tuition. The high school enrollment increased 30%; the grades 10%. During the past 12 years more districts continued to send their students until now the enrollment is about 380. For the past two years classes have been exchanged between Fonda High and Fultonville High to enable students from both villages to take full advantage of the more enriched program offered. At the time of this writing there has been much discussion of the future of Fonda High. What does the future hold? The history just related proves that when progress was needed in our educational system, it was made, so we can rest assured that Fonda will look after the education of its children during the next century as it has in the past.

Grateful acknowledgement to Mrs. Elizabeth B. J. Hammond for above information gleaned from her fine articles on Fonda Schools which appeared in The Democrat in 1939.

EARLY HOTELS

According to Beers, Fonda was well provided with hotels a century ago. The most outstanding hostelry was the Fonda Hotel, described earlier, better known to those who still remember it as Hotel Roy. In 1841 only a single railroad track ran through Fonda between this hotel and the Old Courthouse.

The Johnson House was three stories high and had 35 guest rooms and a livery stable attached. It was purchased by D. W. C. Johnson in 1870 and fitted up as a hotel.

The Cayadutta Hotel stood east of the creek of the same name on the south side of Main Street and was managed by its owner S. Vrooman.

James Fisher conducted a restaurant on Main Street.

A list of the present day hotels will be found in the appendix.

FULTONVILLE LODGE NO. 531, F. & A. M.

The Masonic Lodge had long been associated with the village of Fonda. Many of the village's esteemed and honorable citizens have been members of this venerable order. Jelles Fonda was probably the first Mason to have been raised from the village. He was initiated by Sir William Johnson at Johnson Hall, March 7, 1767. (1)

On November 26, December 3 and December 17, 1862, informal meetings were held in the village of Fultonville by several resident Master Masons with the object in view of establishing a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons.

Application was accordingly made by the 34 charter members to the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York for a Dispensation, which was granted and received on December 29, 1862.

COMPLIMENTS OF

William J. Green

MONTGOMERY

COUNTY

SHERIFF

COMPLIMENTS OF

**Van Alstyne's
Service Station**

TEXACO GAS and OIL

FONDA, N. Y.

COMPLIMENTS OF

Sgt. Al Luciano

—DEALER IN—

MEATS — GROCERIES

A—N—D

BEER IN BOTTLES

FONDA, N. Y.

COMPLIMENTS OF

**Rinella, Battaglia
Company, Inc.**

FOREIGN AND
DOMESTIC FRUITS

14-16 W. Main Street,
Amsterdam, N. Y.

The first regular meeting of the lodge was held January 7, 1863, in rooms on the third floor of the Exchange Building. Temporary quarters were secured in the Eacker Building where the Donaldson Block now stands, and on January 21 the first work was done.

The last meeting under the Dispensation was held May 20 at which time the by-laws were adopted, and the next day the furniture was moved to the permanent lodge rooms which had been fitted up in the brick building on the northeast corner of Main and Canal Streets, now owned by the Philbrook brothers.

A charter was granted the lodge in June, 1863, received on June 17, and the lodge was formally instituted on June 25, 1863. A list of the charter members follows and officers installed:

Thompson Burton, M. D., master; Jacob W. Horton, senior warden; Walter Cross, junior warden; L. J. Bennett, treasurer; John W. Wilson, secretary; A. B. Miller, senior deacon; Nicholas Wemple, junior deacon; Robert Harris, tyler; G. B. T. Fonda, E. S. Gilbert, G. H. Mount, D. A. Fonda, John I. Davis, James Frost, John Conover, Douw Wemple, Gar Van Derveer, Alex H. Mills, L. Ferguson, Jacob Horning, E. D. Cady, William H. Printup, George Koons, Charles Forman, D. V. Berry, D. Magner, T. W. Bingham, C. F. Putman, J. J. VanAlstine, L. V. Peek, A. Spaulding, H. B. Freeman, George Ehle, John H. Starin.

The first communication under the charter was held on July 1, 1863, which was also the first meeting in the new lodge rooms. A glance at the list of charter members will show how closely the lodge has been tied in with the village of Fonda, and so it has been ever since. Its influence cannot therefore be ignored in the preparation of this story of Fonda's organizations.

Prosperity and increase of membership produced the need of larger and better quarters which were provided in the Exchange Building, Main Street, and the old rooms were abandoned June 7, 1871, for those which continued to be the home of the lodge until the destruction of the Exchange Building in the fire of August 1, 1920.

For the next three years the lodge met in rooms in the Cobblestone Hall. During that time plans were made for building a new Temple. This building was completed in 1923 and has served as the Temple since. In 1949 it was redecorated and the exterior repaired.

- (1) This information was obtained from a letter written by Robert Hartley, historian, to E. C. Davis sr.

FONDA FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the early years of Fonda protection against fires depended entirely on rather loosely organized groups, equipped with primitive fire fighting apparatus which became available from time to time. By 1870 the village had acquired a double handle bar pumping apparatus which required 10 to 12 men on each side to operate it. It was equipped with leather buckets and hose and pumped water from wells or from the village creek. When a fire

COMPLIMENTS OF
Chelsea House

"A PLACE OF
DISTINCTION"

TRIBES HILL, N. Y.

COMPLIMENTS OF
Hand's Diner

FONDA, N. Y.

FLORENCE HEALEY,

Proprietress

COMPLIMENTS OF
TERWILLIGER

VARIETY
SHOPPE

TRIBES HILL, N. Y.

COMPLIMENTS OF
Amsterdam
Lincoln - Mercury
Sales Inc.

333 W. MAIN ST.,

Amsterdam, N. Y.

Sales and Service

PHONE 3205

broke out the operation of the pumper and the fighting of the fire was supervised by several accepted leaders but every able-bodied man, who reached the scene, pitched in and became a fireman for the day. Yet the fact that there was some nucleus of an organization with some available apparatus provided a measure of safety and protection to local residents.

But with the growth of the village and the continued erection of new buildings, the need of a better drilled company with up-to-date equipment became more and more apparent. In 1878 a row of New York Central houses, located along the creek nearly opposite the present depot, caught fire. The houses were destroyed but the efficient work of the firemen saved the freight house on the site of the present tower and several hay storage sheds to the west. A little later a number of buildings on Main Street, from the site of the Maze Hotel to the site of the present Conte building, were destroyed by fire. But Fonda's most destructive fire occurred on the night of July 23, 1884. Starting practically where the fire of '78 had ended, this fire traveled westward destroying one frame structure after another and also a livery stable and barns and wagon sheds along the alley north of Main Street until it was checked at the brick building now the Wagon Wheel.

That fire aroused public opinion to a demand for better protection. The village board, which had been reluctant to authorize funds for the purchase of improved equipment, was succeeded by a Citizens ticket in the election of 1885. On the evening after the election, September 14, 1885, a meeting of all citizens was called at the courthouse. Over 100 people were present at the meeting. After some discussion 25 men from among those present volunteered as permanent firemen and proceeded to organize the Mountaineer Hose Company No. 1, an organization that, though it later changed its name and still later expanded into two companies, has functioned without interruption to the present time as the local fire department.

The personnel of the company included: Foreman, Charles Dunbar; first assistant, William A. Smith; second assistant, Thomas Glenn; secretary, Henry Siver; treasurer, Carlton Banker; pipemen, Charles McKenlay, James Dunbar, Henry Keiderling, W. K. Rosa; hydrantmen, C. B. Clute, Dr. Levi Klock, Barton Leonard, Seymour Johnson. Other members, G. W. Brown, E. Corning Davis, G. L. Davis, C. N. Ballou, F. H. Hodge, F. N. Sanderson, Charles Nare, J. O. Schuyler, T. D. Smith, Charles Lenegar, S. W. Putman and G. M. Neahr.

The newly formed company accepted possession of the apparatus from the village board, proceeded to furnish its members with uniforms, badges and other personal equipment and scheduled drill sessions. With the water supply piped in from the newly built reservoir(1), the company was equipped with hose carts and hose as the fire hydrants were gradually installed throughout the village, the use of the hand pumper was discontinued. During the early years of its existence the company participated in many parades.

(1) See "Water Supply."

COMPLIMENTS OF
NARDICK'S
GROCERY
and
GRILL

SPAGHETTI DINNERS
OUR SPECIALTY

E. MAIN STREET,
FONDA, N. Y.

COMPLIMENTS OF
Stanley and Clara
Mitchell
FONDA, N. Y.

COMPLIMENTS OF
Empire Highland
Nurseries
Johnstown, N. Y.
LANDSCAPING A
SPECIALTY
TREES — SHRUBS
EVERGREENS
BOX 18 UNION AVE.
PHONE 587

COMPLIMENTS OF
Hotel Griffith
AND
STABLES
JOHN GRIFFITH
AND
NELLIE GRIFFITH
Proprietors
Park Street,
Fonda, N. Y.

benefits and other social events both locally and as guests of fire departments of surrounding towns.

The minute book mentions only three fires prior to the turn of the century, though there must have been other alarms to which the company responded. The first was a chimney fire in the G. H. F. Van Horn residence on December 31, 1885, only a little more than three months after the company had been organized. It was found then that the fire bell was not large enough and could not be heard. Only about one-third of the company members heard the alarm and responded. The second was a fire at the Michael Washington residence on September 11, 1887. It is recorded in the minutes that the company had two streams of water on the fire five minutes after the alarm had been given. The third fire was at the knitting mill late in the year of 1889. Unfortunately the village board had permitted the removal of the hose from the carts for use in the streets to the embarrassment and chagrin of the firemen.

The company had run into difficulties with the village board earlier in that same year. The board had appointed a fire chief and the company refused to recognize him. The company claimed the board had the right to approve or disapprove but not the right to appoint. In the heat of the discussion a motion was made that the company disband but cooler heads prevailed to secure instead the appointment of a committee to confer with the board and iron out the difficulty.

A complete solution of the problem was concluded in 1894 when the Fire Council of Fonda was organized pursuant to Chapter 151 of the laws of the State of New York of 1870 and the subsequent acts amendatory thereto. This council was to consist of the foreman and the two assistant foremen of the several companies of the department. Its duties were: 1. to present to the village board nominations for the office of chief engineer and two assistant engineers of the fire department, the village to appoint or to reject the nominees; 2. to purchase, maintain and use all apparatus of the department under the supervision of the village board.

At this time the J. S. Sitterly Hook and Ladder Company had already been organized and the foreman and two assistant foremen of the Hose Company and of the Hook and Ladder Company automatically became the Fire Council and the combined membership of the two companies constituted the Fonda Fire Department. Unfortunately the records of the Hook and Ladder Company are not available but the minutes of the Fire Council show the service of the former as a company of the fire department from 1894 to 1901. Evidently they had disbanded before the end of 1901, when Hose Company No. 2 was organized.

In December, 1894, the fire department, consisting of the Mountaineer Hose Company No. 1 and the J. S. Sitterly Hook and Ladder Company had joined the Tri-County Association. In December, 1895, the Mountaineers changed their name to the Snell Hose Company No. 1 and new by-laws were adopted. In September, 1897, an addition to the firehouse was authorized by the village board. In June, 1901, the Snell Hose Company No. 1 joined the State

COMPLIMENTS OF
General Mills Inc.

Farm Service
Division

FONDA, N. Y.

PHONE 3-6211

COMPLIMENTS OF
Tony's Grill

WINES, LIQUOR, BEER
GOOD FOODS

Fultonville, N. Y.

A. CERRETO, Prop.

COMPLIMENTS OF
**Philbrook's
Market**

MEATS — GROCERIES

Fultonville, N. Y.

PHONE 3-5481

COMPLIMENTS OF
**Eddie's Sweet
Shoppe**

FONDA, N. Y.
OPPOSITE HIGH SCHOOL

MEATS — GROCERIES
CONFECTIONS
SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Phone 3-5714

Firemen's Association. On December 30, 1901, Hose Company No. 2 was organized and continued under that name until April 1, 1929, when the name Snell Hose Company No. 2 was adopted. These two hose companies, No. 1 and No. 2 have continued as the Fonda Fire Department from 1901 to the present time. In that half century of service only two major, total loss fires have occurred: The Hotel Roy, better known as the old Fonda Hotel, in 1909 and the Weeper mill on East Main Street in 1947. This record of efficiency is the more remarkable because until 1938 the department operated with man-drawn hose and chemical carts. Since 1938, when the first motored apparatus was acquired, their service has become even more efficient as only a few minutes are required to reach a fire in any part of the village.

Much might be written about the individual men, who over their years of volunteer service made substantial contributions to the fine record of the Fonda Fire Department. But two names, of outstanding interest as links between the present and the past, are particularly worthy of mention. The first is E. Corning Davis, the only surviving charter member of the organization of the Mountaineers in 1885. The second is Seely Hodge, said to be the only Fonda fireman to belong actively to both companies. Mr. Hodge began as a drummer with the old Hose Company Drum Corps. In 1895 he was elected to honorary membership in the company and in 1896 to active membership. In 1903 he became second assistant, in 1904, first assistant and in 1923, foreman of the company.

In 1933 he became chief of the fire department and continued actively in the office until the time of his resignation in January, 1950. Incidentally he is serving at the present time as the general chairman of the Fonda Centennial committee.

James Lippie was elected chief in 1950.

HISTORY OF MOHAWK VALLEY GRANGE, FONDA

The Grange was first organized in Fonda in 1889. Mohawk Valley Grange No. 579, by an organizing state deputy, Mr. Cronkhite. At a meeting in the Berryville schoolhouse, Lucius Cole was elected master; Adam P. Wemple, overseer; and Alice Dockstader, secretary. Later meetings were held over the Jansen Hardware. It was here Montgomery County Pomona Grange was organized January 26, 1893 with 81 charter members. Fonda Grange became a banner grange among the 15 sub-ordinate Granges organized in Montgomery County between 1886 and 1909.

In those days the Grange had co-operative buying as one of its purposes, a phase of work later taken over by Co-operative Grange League Federation (the G. L. F.). Mohawk Valley Grange store was located on the Sand Flats and was operated by Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Dockstader.

In the early 1900's this sub-ordinate Grange became inactive.

On December 9, 1912 the present Mohawk Valley Grange No. 1289 was organized in the Old Courthouse, Fonda by Mr. Potter, organizing state deputy, assisted by Edgar Van Horne, Glen, and

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
VILLAGE OF FONDA
ON ITS 100TH BIRTHDAY

Ritter Chemical Co., Inc.

—R. C. CO. SPECIALTIES—

Chemists For Textile and Tanning Industries
AMSTERDAM, N. Y.

COMPLIMENTS OF

Shell Oil Company

Fultonville, N. Y.

County Deputy Harvey Shelp. Arthur Stube was elected master; Albert Fonda, overseer; Alice Dockstader, secretary; Emma S. Wemple, lecturer. Meetings were held in the Jansen Block until 1918 when the Mohawk Valley Grange purchased from the Starin Estate the Industrial Hall on Main Street in Fonda and converted it into a modern Grange Hall.

The following have served as master: Arthur Stube, Charles Vedder, Richard Persse, James Bergen, Carl VanAntwerp, Stanley Everson, Boyd Argresinger, LeRoy Bracebridge, Ward Hinkle, Etta S. Bergen, Henry B. Dillenbeck, David Fox, Dewitt Gros, Lansing Thornton, Alton Dillenbeck, and Konrad Frohn.

Two county deputies have come from Mohawk Valley: R. A. Persse, James Bergen.

Fine programs have been presented by the following lecturers: Emma S. Wemple, Etta S. Bergen, Florence Wemple, Olive Vedder, Sarah Russ, Gertrude Smith, Flossmary Yates, Florence Suits, Marion Persse, Mary Lathers, Mabel Conable, Marion Gros, Clara Duesler, Vera Fox.

The 1950 officers of the Grange are: Master, David Fox; Overseer, H. B. Dillenbeck; lecturer, Margaret MacLachlan; steward, Florence Spönenberg; assistant steward, Konrad Frohn; chaplain, Goldie Clute; treasurer, R. A. Persse; secretary, Jeanette Showerman; financial secretary, Marion Bauder; gatekeeper, Schuyler Suits; graces, Irene Frohn, Audrey Walta, Anna Suits; lady assistant steward, Eleanor Dillenbeck; executive committee, James Bergen, Ralph MacLachlan, Alton Dillenbeck.

In the Juvenile Grange, which is Mohawk Valley Juvenile No. 34, Mrs. Alton Dillenbeck is matron; Donald Bowler, master.

The Grange is a real farm fraternity, seeking primarily the welfare of rural life and at the same time proclaiming a patriotism and citizenship of the loftiest type. Through local, State, and National organization, the men and women of the Grange since its founding in 1866 have used their influence for the advancement of the common cause through education, legislation, and the best agricultural principles to become one of the largest farm organizations in the U. S. today.

FONDA IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

In 1895 the Rev. Washington Frothingham, an eminent preacher, author and public-spirited citizen, established the Fonda Improvement Society, and incorporated it under the laws of the State of New York. Its objects were stated to be—"to operate the Campbell Bath for their own use and for such of the public as they (the trustees) shall see fit to admit, under such regulations as may be adopted and which may be changed from time to time as circumstances may require. In addition to the above the Society will open a public reading room and library whenever their income shall be sufficient; and if funds shall be sufficient for public lectures they shall also be among the Society's objects."

The sources of income were the rentals from certain houses and

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
VILLAGE OF FONDA
ON YOUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Fultonville National Bank
Fultonville, New York

MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORP.

COMPLIMENTS OF

M. J. Devine & Son

PIPE VALVES, FITTINGS AND
POWER SPECIALTIES

Amsterdam, N. Y.

1 ANN STREET

PHONE 142 - 4726

an office building in Fonda, and later from a fairly good-sized building on Cedar Street, New York. The latter was under the burden of a heavy mortgage, however, which was not finally paid up in full until 1947.

The Rev. Frothingham was the very active president until his death in 1914. During his lifetime and until 1924 the Campbell Bath was used every summer as a swimming pool. It was situated at the end of the lane near the Peasley mill. In 1897 over 1,500 baths were taken. In 1896 the Rev. Frothingham organized an anti-cigarette league, the members of which were allowed to use the pool free. In 1898 a private bath tub was installed! Later two wells were dug to supplement the water supply—one for iron water, the other for sulphur water. The latter supplied 850 gallons a day. In 1905 a bowling alley was built in the Frothingham building on Main Street where the Frothingham Library now has its headquarters.

The first trustees, in addition to the founder, were John A. George, W. S. Briggs, F. S. Fritscher and Ferguson Jansen.

After the death of the Rev. Frothingham, the society succeeded to control of his estate. The conditions of his Will were unusual, naming a number of annuitant beneficiaries as well as offering two alternate bequests to the Presbyterian Church in Tribes Hill. The conditions of the larger bequest were too burdensome, so the church refused it, accepting a smaller bequest without strings attached. A large number of heirs in Scotland increased the problems of administration.

Among those who served as trustees during the years were the late John A. George, Ferguson Jansen, Henry Getman, F. S. Fritcher, John E. Wyman, Earl A. Ausman, Dr. E. J. Abbott, E. H. Kurlbaum, Ella L. Frothingham. The present trustees are: President, E. C. Davis; A. Howard Burtch, Murray L. Jackson, and Charles Beakle.

From 1916, for several years, the society suffered financial difficulties and at times had not even enough income with which to pay the annuitant beneficiaries. In 1926 the Jelles Fonda house, built in 1791 which was expensive to keep in repair, was sold to Mrs. Edith M. Burtch. The interest of the heirs in Scotland was paid off. The Campbell Bath was abandoned in 1924, because of the shortage of water and also because of the prohibitive cost of estimated repairs. A plan was considered whereby a running stream, the one coming in near Court Street, would be dammed and made into a public swimming pool. In 1932 a proposal was discussed, but deferred indefinitely, to build a new Campbell Bath on the high school property.

In 1936 the mortgage on the New York property began to be amortized, until finally it was paid in full in 1947. The Society also owns the building on Main Street in Fonda where the library is and several dwelling houses. These properties were deeded to the Society by the Rev. Frothingham prior to his death, but he retained control over them. This corporation for the public benefit was a forerunner in its relatively small way of some of the great funds today like the Rockefeller Foundation and others.

THE
Amsterdam Evening Recorder

Extends To The

Village of Fonda

Its Neighbor on the West and

The County Seat

Best Wishes

on the Observance of the

Centennial

of Its Incorporation

The Rev. Washington Frothingham was an outstanding personality—eccentric, gifted, public-spirited, much interested in education and recreation for the people of this community. Many are the tales told of his odd ways by people, who as small boys and girls, were scared by his sudden manner; but deep and far-seeing was his vision, and enduring are the benefits of his generous spirit.

PARLIAMENTARY SCHOOL

Fifty-four years of continuous activity is no small achievement for a woman's Club, and the Parliamentary School of Fultonville and Fonda is rightfully proud of its record. Founded in February 1896, in the Fultonville Reformed Church by a few forward-looking women, it has meant much to the twin villages.

In the middle Nineties the Women's Political League of New York was making a serious study of parliamentary law, and getting much newspaper notice thereby. Among the women who became interested were Mrs. John H. Starin, and Mrs. L. V. Peake of Fultonville. Eager for knowledge and ready to learn, a small group of progressive women of Fultonville met together on February 20, 1896, and started what was then called "The Saturday Afternoon Parliamentary School of Fultonville."

Mrs. L. V. Peake was the first president. Miss Mary Louise Hurley was one of the charter members. Some of the others were Mrs. R. B. Fish, Mrs. Alfred DeGraff, Mrs. A. B. Smith and Mrs. W. W. Wiles.

Of these early years the records are incomplete; however, we know that within a few months of its founding, the Parliamentary School invited the Fonda ladies to join. The school became a part of the Starin Benevolent and Industrial Association and held its meetings alternately in Cobblestone Hall, Fultonville, and the Starin Hall (now Grange Hall), Fonda.

Down through the years the club's roster has risen to 78, or even dropped to 36. The members have lived through three wars—The Spanish-American, the First and Second World Wars, and have given wholehearted help to every project that tried to bind up the wounds of war.

By sharing speakers of unusual interest with guests, the school has brought outstanding cultural events to Fonda and Fultonville. The members have initiated or supported many community improvements—notably a safety campaign especially for children; a study of county government; an appreciative study of our school and educational system; art exhibits; first aid and home nursing classes; and encouragement of the organizing of the Frothingham Free Library in Fonda.

In 1926 the school was honored by the election of Mrs. J. I. Spraker as treasurer of the New York State Federation, and in 1932 as director of the Fourth District. In 1926 the school became a member of the General, or National Federation.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
FOR NEARLY
HALF A CENTURY
WITH
QUALITY FURNISHINGS
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FONDA, N. Y.

CAUGHNAWAGA CHAPTER, N. S. D. A. R.

Caughnawaga Chapter, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, was organized Sept. 21, 1907, by a group of Fonda women who chose Mrs. R. A. Schuyler as regent. The national charter was granted Feb. 22, 1908.

Early interests were landmarks and prizes given in the schools. Bible records were copied and graves of Revolutionary soldiers were marked. A marker was placed on the old Caughnawaga church site. Later a flagpole was erected on the site of the first bloodshed of the Revolutionary War in Tryon County. This was later replaced by an historic millstone with marker. Prizes were given in the schools for historical essays, for Girl Homemaking projects and for Good Citizenship essays. Members gave talks on patriotic subjects.

The local chapter contributed gnerously to the national buildings, to the Vally Forge bell and Bell Tower and to the support of historic Kenmore. The D. A. R. schools, which reach hundreds of mountain children, have been supported with gifts of money for buildings and a part-scholarship. Nancy Staring C. A. R. Society was organized, disbanded, and re-organized. Indian children were remembered at Christmas. For many years immigrants at Ellis Island received occupational materials—now these are sent to hospitals. Prospective citizens receive the helpful D. A. R. Manual for Citizenship.

Conservation has been practiced in many ways; a stand of pines in the state forest at Charleston was financed; seeds were sent to soldiers in outposts.

War work was varied—war gardens, contributions to Red Cross work, Testaments for buddy bags, X-ray mobil units and war bond drives. Five members received citations for over 750 hours of war work. Letters to servicemen was a special project and a large sum was given to the blood plasma fund.

American music has been featured, especially at patriotic celebrations. The chapter received a prize for state work in American music, a national ribbon for building fund contributions. Six members have served as state chairmen or officers.

MOHAWK VALLEY CHAPTER NO. 489, ORDER OF EASTERN STAR

In September of the year 1910 a group of women, relatives of Master Masons of Fultonville Lodge F. & A. M. No. 531, decided to form a chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Under the supervision of R. W. Nellie MacNeil of Artwell Chapter of Amsterdam, a chapter was organized and named Mohawk Valley Chapter. Mrs. Gustave Weichert was chosen worthy matron and Prof. Webb and H. Edwards became worthy patron. A charter was granted in 1911 and registered No. 489. Candidates could now be initiated. The meetings were held on the first and third Mondays of each month.

As was the case with the Masonic Lodge, members were drawn

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from both Fonda and Fultonville and a system was worked out whereby a Fultonville woman was matron one year and a Fonda woman the next. During World War I Mrs. Elizabeth B. J. Hammond served four years in succession.

On August 1, 1920, fire destroyed the Bank Building in Fultonville in which the Masonic rooms were located. Records and paraphernalia were to a great extent lost. Mrs. Anna Gilbert was matron and Mr. Herbert Wiles, patron. Rooms were procured in the Cobblestone Building and meetings resumed.

When the new Temple was completed in 1923 the Stars moved in. Mrs. Marcia Kling and Mr. W. A. T. Cassidy were matron and patron. In 1926 Henry Kling was made patron and served for 19 years. The same year, Marcia Kling was elected treasurer and served 22 years. The organization has had 35 matrons and seven patrons.

Grand Chapter has honored Mohawk Valley Chapter No. 489 with four grand officers. Mrs. Mary H. Lathers was appointed district deputy grand matron for the Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Montgomery District in 1925, and Mrs. Charlotte V. Roickle in 1944. Mr. Henry Kling was made district grand lecturer for the same district in 1939 and Mr. Ralph Kimball in 1949.

Since its organization the chapter has flourished and become a recognized force in the activities of both villages. Its educational and charitable characteristics, as well as its social aspects, have enriched the life of the community.

FLOYD DECKRO POST NO. 383, AMERICAN LEGION

The Post was organized on August 16, 1919 at the Old Courthouse, Fonda, with Norman Sweet as temporary chairman. There were 42 charter members. On November 6, 1919 at the first regular election, George Sanderson was chosen president. Later the term president was changed to commander.

The funeral of Floyd Deckro, who gave his life in World War I, and in whose honor the post was named, was held in full military honors by the members of the Post on Sunday, April 23, 1922.

In July 1929 the Post purchased the old Catholic church on Main Street to be used as the Post home. Previously meetings had been held in the Old Courthouse, Odd Fellows' Rooms and the Firemen's Rooms. During August of the same year a successful Field Day was held at the Fonda Fairgrounds. The proceeds was used toward the purchase of the new home.

The Floyd Deckro Post has always been active in all community affairs and has done its utmost in projects for the community betterment. It has sponsored two different drum corps, junior American Legion baseball team and has taken the lead in Memorial Day observances. The Post was very instrumental in securing appropriations from the village and the Town of Mohawk for the World War II memorial and had the responsibility of securing the monument, the site and compiling the names.

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ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY



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TEKAKWITHA REBEKAH DODGE

Tekakwitha Rebekah Lodge No. 619, I. O. O. F. was organized December 8, 1922 at Fonda, N. Y. by district deputy president and staff from Canajoharie with the following charter members: Rose Miller, John Raynor, Mrs. Eliza Bauder, Mrs. Freda Steenburgh, Miss Alice Gardinier, Mrs. Nellie Cudney, Mrs. Rose Putman, Richard Furkhart, Arthur Andrews, Mrs. Jane Crane, Mrs. Bessie Furkhart, John E. Wyman, Mrs. Jennie Wyman and Willett Cook. All 14 members were past grands. The first elective officers were noble grand, Mrs. Jane Wyman; vice-grand, Bessie Furkhart; recording secretary, Jane Crane; financial secretary, Freda Steenburgh; treasurer, Alice Gardinier; and the following officers have held the office of district deputy president—Jane Wyman, 1928-1929; Jane Crane, 1934-1935; Florence Christiance Wagar, 1935-1936; Freda Steenburgh, Ruth Smarup, Alice Dockstader, Rose Voorhees, Anna Argersinger, Margaret Gallagher, Bertha Bellows, Kitty Carroll, Florence Christiance, Ruth Christiance, Charlotte Wiers, Alice Christiance, Mildred Shibley, Rosina Duesler, Edith Unger, Gertrude Yost were all past noble grands, several of whom are now deceased.

The lodge was named Tekakwitha in honor of Tekakwitha, one of the first Indian maidens to be converted in the Mohawk Valley. It is still active with 31 members and Cora Sherman as acting noble grand, and in January, 1950, Mrs. Jane Wyman celebrated her 50th year of Rebekahship.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT FLOYD DECKRO POST 383

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit of the Floyd Deckro Post 383 was organized on February 3, 1931 with 43 charter members present; three of whom were Gold Star Mothers.

Temporary officers were chosen and installed on March 30, 1931 as follows: President, Mrs. Bertha M. Foster; first vice-president, Mrs. Florence Vosburg; second vice-president, Mrs. Jane Wyman; secretary, Miss Viola Van Huesen; treasurer, Mrs. Florence Cranker; chaplain, Mrs. Francis Butler; historian, Mrs. Margaret L. MacLachlan; sergeant-at-arms, Mrs. Vesta Haig; pianist, Miss Julia Kelly.

This meeting was presided over by the county Legion Auxiliary chairman, Miss Laura Hufnail of Fort Plain, and her staff of officers.

Work for the ensuing year was begun. Gifts were sent to the Veterans Mountain Camp at Saranac Lake. A number of card parties were held which aided the treasury.

A constitution and by-laws compiled by chairman, Mrs. Emma Kurlbaum and committee were placed before the organization and accepted.

Meetings were held on the second Monday of each month from September to June, inclusive. A social time was enjoyed at the conclusion of each meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
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ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF ITS INCORPORATION

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OF THE
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On the ninth of February 1932, the organization was saddened by the sudden death of their president, Mrs. Bertha Foster. Mrs. Florence Vosburg, first vice-president then assumed the office of president.

In the same year, 1932, the first banquet was held at the Fonda Reformed Church. The auxiliary assisted the Legion in entertaining the American Legion and its staff of officers.

Past presidents include: Mrs. Jane Wyman, Mabel Penner, Martha Gill, Rosina Deusler, Sylvia Monroe, Florence Cranker, Elinor Gifford, Concetta Leggiero, and Mrs. Ruth Hazzard, who is serving at the present time.

The Unit has six Gold Star Mothers of World War II.

During the past 19 years, the Auxiliary has successfully carried on its work for disabled veterans and families, child welfare, rehabilitation and community service.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING COMMITTEE

The Public Health Nursing committee of the Town of Mohawk was organized on November 21, 1935 at the home of Mrs. Charles Vedder with 10 charter members. Mrs. W. S. Martin became the first president and Mrs. Dudley Persse the first secretary-treasurer. Rhoda M. Sheldon was the local nurse and Mrs. Comuford, the district state supervising nurse.

Under the supervision of the health officer its object is to help develop a health program for the community. Programs at monthly meetings include educational features, reports of nurses and plans for ways to help them.

Members have endeavored to make the community conscious of the benefits of the service and to create a better understanding of the work.

Great numbers of articles useful to families having illness have been assembled in a "loan closet." Among these are crutches and a number of wheel chairs which have been in continuous use. Layettes, premature jackets, hospital sheets and obstetrical bundles have been prepared at meetings.

Due to the committee's activities the sale of fireworks in the village was banned. Later attention was called to the absence of both villages physicians on the same day. The physicians co-operated by rearranging their schedules, thus promoting greater medical security in both communities.

When additional appropriations were needed for nurses, members approached the county supervisors individually showing them the great value and need of the nursing program.

Public meetings have been held with prominent speakers. Outstanding were the ones on cancer, safety, and tuberculosis. Arrangements with various clubs have been made to have programs and speakers on health.

In 1948 the Mohawk committee merged with the one in the Town of Glen and the work is continuing on the same lines. Due to the work of this group we feel that the public better understands and appreciates the public health services available to them.

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Children of
American Revolution

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PRO-TO CLUB

The Pro-To Club of the towns of Mohawk and Glen was organized in the year 1938 in the old courthouse with Mrs. Leonard Brownell as temporary chairman. Its purpose was declared as that of creating a more enjoyable environment for the members and to aid in improving the social and civic elements of the community. Membership was to consist of business and professional women from Fonda, Fultonville and Glen. Today it numbers over 70 active members.

The club has arranged many social events, open to the public, such as annual dances, fashion shows, card parties, theater nights, and recently a dog show. And has undertaken rummage sales, raffles, and food sales plus giving hearty co-operation to projects of other community groups.

It has been recorded that the Pro-To Club, during its 12 years in existence, has contributed \$1800. to various community and national organizations for humanitarian enterprises.

A part of each monthly meeting is devoted to some worthwhile subject such as travelogues, personal improvements, accomplishments of the disabled, book reviews, sociological research and other vital topics of the day.

In closing, it is fitting to dedicate this report to the charter members who created this organization that has thus earned an honorable place in the community.

THE MID-VALLEY HOME BUREAU UNIT

July 10, 1944 a small group of Fonda women met at the Frothingham Library and organized a Home Bureau Unit with 11 charter members, under the leadership of Mrs. Albert Fonda.

Later Miss Edna Kearns was chosen chairman. Meetings were held in the Old Courthouse, where lessons in basic sewing, use of detergents, making mittens, efficient housekeeping and foods were given. More women became interested and several from Fultonville joined.

The years 1945 and 1946 were busy ones with Mrs. Margaret Drake as capable chairman. Meetings were held in the homes of members and the name Mid-Valley was chosen for the unit. Lessons on family life, study of foods, Christmas greens, electric repairing, rush seats, kitchen conferences, furniture refinishing, home grounds, landscaping, pressure cooker canning, food freezing, and many others were taught. The members helped to organize a Unit in Glen.

In 1947 and 1948 Mrs. Beatrice Beyer was chairman. The membership was steadily growing as more women realized the need Home Bureau was filling. Lessons in slip-covers, meat cookery, bread and rolls, basic sewing, bound buttonholes, dickeys, zippers, complete dresses, storage space, cane seating, pressing pads, ironing short cuts, sharpening knives, citizenship, and kitchen clinics were held.

In 1949 and 1950 Mrs. Pearl Stevens was chairman. The mem-

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bership had increased to 96. It became difficult to find homes large enough to hold many of the meetings so the churches in Fonda and Fultonville have been used. Many of the former lessons have been repeated for the benefit of the new members and new ones in purchasing foods, kitchen storage space, corsages, town and county government and our schools were introduced. Among the most popular lessons in 1950 were aluminum trays and plastic bags.

Trips to Cooperstown, Hyde Park and Ticonderoga, where museums and points of interest were visited as well as a trip to Speculator to see the fall foliage, were enjoyed by all in the Unit.

Each year an exhibit of the work done by Home Bureau members is displayed in the windows of local merchants during Home Demonstration Week and another display is held at Achievement Day.

The new officers for next year have been elected with Mrs. Alberta Roosevelt and Mrs. Caroline Dumar as co-chairmen.

FONDA COMMUNITY SERVICE CLUB

In April, 1948, a group of Fonda men met with four members of the Canajoharie Kiwanis Club at the Hotel Brunswick. The Canajoharie Kiwanians had requested the meeting in the hope of sponsoring the organization of a Fonda Kiwanis club. But the meeting became the beginning, not of a Kiwanis club, but of an independent Community Club for Fonda. The members of the Fonda group were not unmindful of the advantages of Kiwanis as a community organization. They realized that Kiwanis, like other international or national service organizations offered a well-balanced program of action, constant advise and help from international and district officers, and the opportunity of valuable exchanges of ideas through inter-club contacts. But, on the other hand, they feared the intensive and far-flung activities of a Kiwanis club, promoted by 15 to 20 standing committees, together with its membership restrictions by rigid classification regulations, its requirement for weekly meetings, and its demand for representation through delegates at International and District conventions, would over-tax the available personnel of a small community like Fonda. Also they remembered that a Kiwanis club with a combined Fonda and Fultonville membership had been obliged to surrender its charter some years previously because it could not meet the extensive activity program demanded.

The Canajoharie Kiwanians were naturally disappointed that they had failed to sponsor the organization of a new Kiwanis club and had thereby lost for themselves valuable activity credits and the conveniently nearby opportunity of inter-club contacts; but they were good sports and encouraged the formation of the new organization, even though it was not to be a Kiwanis club. At the April, 1950 meeting when the Fonda Community Service Club observed the second anniversary of its organization, these four gentlemen were present as honor guests. Three of them, still members of the Canajoharie Kiwanis Club, are Webster Bierman, president of his club, Lester Waner and Karl Wohlgemuth. The fourth, now residing in the Fonda area and a member of the Fonda Community Club, is William Kling.

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During the two years of its existence the club has sponsored the children's Christmas party; a local Boy Scout troop; a 4-H Club calf project for youth of Mohawk township; raised a fund by popular subscription for the purchase and erection of Christmas street lighting; maintained its membership in the Empire State Association of Commerce and in the Mohawk Valley Towns' Association.

The club has also supported, by contributions, the fund for school band uniforms, the community playground project, the Salvation Army fund, the "March of Dimes" fund, the Red Cross, St. Mary's Hospital building fund, the cancer campaign, and is supporting by participation the Fonda Centennial observance program.

The club has adopted the slogan: "Fellowship Builds a Good Community."

FONDA PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The Fonda Public School Parent-Teacher Association was organized on October 27, 1948, with 37 charter members. Meetings are held in the Fonda High School library on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:45 p. m.

This unit is affiliated with the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, which has a membership of nearly six million persons.

All persons interested in children, whether a parent or not, are invited to meet with the local P-TA unit.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAIR

The Society for the Promotion of Agriculture, Art and Manufacture was established for the State of New York in 1793. In 1801 this society, for convenience of action, divided the State into Agricultural Districts, each consisting of a county. Districts were required to make reports to the State Society on current conditions of agriculture and manufacture. After several years the State Society offered premiums for the best specimens of home-made cloth. In 1819 the State Legislature appropriated funds to be distributed to the counties for the advancement of agriculture and domestic manufacture on the condition that the counties themselves would subscribe equal amounts. Despite these efforts to maintain interest the districts became indifferent and without their co-operation the activities of the State Society ceased. In 1841 the Society was reorganized, measures were taken for raising funds and for holding annual fairs and \$40,000 was appropriated by the Legislature, partly to the State Society and partly for distribution to the counties in proportion to their representation in the Assembly.

It was under this act that The Montgomery County Agricultural Society was organized on September 20, 1844 and that the first fair was held on the Courthouse grounds November 11 and 12, 1844. It was continued annually at Fonda, except in 1849, when it was held at Canajoharie; and in three other years, when it was held respec-

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tively at Fort Plain, at St. Johnsville and at Canajoharie. In 1861 a very successful balloon ascension was added as a feature attraction. In that year the number of exhibits in livestock and in some other departments exceeded those of previous years by one half.

In 1863 Fonda was fixed as the permanent location of the fair. A tract of land was purchased consisting of 13 acres of the Van Horne estate situated between the railroad and the Mohawk River and East of the bridge. In its new location the fair prospered during the succeeding years. In 1876 the first grandstand was built. By 1878 all indebtedness for land and buildings had been paid and there was a balance of \$987 in the treasury. Since that time a larger grandstand section has been built adjacent to the original structure on the east, other buildings have been erected and extensive improvements have been made on the grounds.

It is interesting to note that in the year 1894 the fairgrounds became a circus ground for one day for the "Greatest Show on Earth," the original P. T. Barnum's circus, which showed here on June 26.

This circus was unable to put on its performance that day at its scheduled location and obtained permission to set up their tents on the Fonda Fairgrounds. Elephants, trained animals, performers and all the trappings of a big circus turned out for a big parade on Fonda's Main Street. This is the only time, so far as known, that a major circus has performed in Fonda.

The fairgrounds have also been the setting for many other forms of entertainment including chautauquas, rodeos, auto races, and horse shows.

Over a long period of years the Fonda Fair had its ups and downs and at one time had a considerable debt. During several years the association ran into bad weather consecutively which greatly reduced the attendance and income. Bonds were issued to pay off the outstanding notes and these were sold throughout the county. After a number of years the Society was able to pay off its bonded debt and has since accumulated a cash surplus which at the beginning of this year amounted to \$23,000.

In addition to this the Society last year spent \$10,000 in improvements to buildings and grounds. This year a large addition to the grandstand is being built at a cost of \$13,000, which will leave the Society at the start of this year's fair with a cash surplus of \$10,000 in U. S. Treasury bonds.

The Fonda Fair continues as one of the outstanding annual events not only for the village of Fonda but for all the people of Montgomery County.

FROTHINGHAM FREE LIBRARY

The Frothingham Free Library of Fonda was organized in June 1942 under the dynamic leadership of the Rev. Harold J. Hoffman, then pastor of the Fonda Reformed Church. Its first home was on the ground floor of the building now owned by the Finer Furniture store.

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VILLAGE OF FONDA

ON THE OBSERVANCE OF THE

100TH YEAR

SINCE ITS INCORPORATION

The name Frothingham is in memory of the Rev. Washington Frothingham in whose will is a clause emphasizing his "long cherished purpose of establishing a free reading room, billiard room and library in Fonda, N. Y."

At present the library is housed in the first floor rooms of the building midway on the north side of Main Street, owned by the Frothingham Estate. It offers an excellent, up-to-date assortment of both fiction and non-fiction books for all ages, free to any responsible borrower. The library is open for lending of books on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, one to five and seven to nine p. m. Its fine reference library may be used on the premises any day Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 to 11:30 a. m., 12:30 to five p. m. Many exhibits of art, handicraft, etc. are shown here. The library is sponsored by the Town of Mohawk, the Frothingham Estate, the Parliamentary School of Fultonville and Fonda; the Pro-To Club; and a number of private individuals. Since September 1947 the library has maintained a Bookmobile service for the district schools of the Town of Mohawk, distributing books to them seven or eight times each year.

It is chartered and registered under the New York State Department of Education. At present this library is working with the seven other libraries of Montgomery and Fulton counties to find ways of giving better service to the whole area.

Former trustees have been the Rev. Harold J. Hoffman, the Hon. Tunis P. Bowler, the Rev. Herbert S. Roberts, Mrs. Leonard Brownell, Harold J. Shinaman, the late Alfred DeGraff. The first librarian was Miss Dorothy Getman (now Mrs. Murray Jackson).

The present officers are: President of the association, James Bergen; secretary, Mrs. Harvey Horning; Board of Trustees — Chairman, Ralph W. MacLachlan, Mrs. James I. Spraker, Edmund J. McKeough, Mrs. W. Barent Wemple, A. Howard Burtch. Miss Cornelia D. Fonda is librarian, assisted by several volunteer staff members. Tunis P. Bowler is an honorary trustee.

POST OFFICE

According to records of the Post Office Department (1) the post office at Fonda was first established as Caughnawaga shortly before July 15, 1805. Its name was changed to Fonda on December 29, 1840. Names of postmasters and dates of their appointment were:

James Vorhees	July 15, 1805 (2)
Thomas Edwards	June 9, 1809
Martin Roof	June 15, 1818
John Liswell	May 30, 1819
John T. Liswell	January 13, 1831
John I. Johnson	May 12, 1833
Henry Veeder	September 2, 1835
Hammer P. Cronkhite	November 25, 1840
John B. Borst	July 6, 1841
John N. Webster	February 3, 1842
John B. Borst	May 4, 1842
Darius V. Berry	October 19, 1846

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**VILLAGE OF
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Israel I. Buckbee	May 10, 1847
Peter Fritcher	May 15, 1849
Smith Phillips	June 1, 1853
Robert Campbell	February 28, 1856
Peter Fritcher	May 16, 1861
Mrs. Adelia Fritcher	June 5, 1865
John D. Berry	April 13, 1869
Darius V. Berry	February 6, 1875
Henry R. Royce	January 19, 1888
Frank F. Burtch	April 22, 1890
Isaac A. Rosa	August 29, 1894
George L. Davis	June 13, 1898
James A. Snell	January 16, 1907
Jerry B. Martin (acting)	April 7, 1915
Jerry B. Martin	April 4, 1916
Erastus C. Davis	January 21, 1922
LeRoy K. Kurlbaum (acting)	March 2, 1935 (3)
LeRoy K. Kurlbaum	August 21, 1935
James H. Fogarty (mil. act.)	October 14, 1942
LeRoy K. Kurlbaum — Given military leave on March 31, 1940.	
Returned to duty from military leave on June 30, 1945.	

- (1) National Archives.
- (2) Date of first correspondence of the postmaster general with the deputy postmaster.
- (3) Information after 1930 furnished by the Post Office Dept.

THE MOHAWK-CAUGHNAWAGA MUSEUM

On a tract of land, one-half mile west of the village of Fonda (Route 5) stood the Mohawk Indian village or castle known as Caughnawaga during the years 1666-7 to 1693. The French referred to this castle as Gandaouage; the Dutch called it Kagenewage in 1674 and thereafter the English usually spoke of "The First Castle of the Mohawks."

Historical records of the year 1669 mention a Catholic chapel named "St. Peter" which the Mohawk Indians had built at Caughnawaga under the direction of Father Boniface, S. J. As a result of missionary endeavors a number of Mohawk Indians accepted the Catholic faith and became noted for their pious lives. Among these an Indian maiden known as Catherine Tekakwitha was an outstanding example.

In the year 1938, the Franciscan Fathers (Order Minor Conventuals) opened the present St. Peter's chapel on this tract of land in memory of Catherine Tekakwitha, who was baptized in the first chapel at Caughnawaga on Easter Sunday, April 18, 1676.

Archaeological and historical investigations, pursued during succeeding years, so fully confirmed the location of Caughnawaga castle that a decision was made to reconstruct the ground floor under St. Peter's chapel as a museum. Eventually, on February 18, 1949, a formal application was made to the Regents of the University of the State of New York for a charter of incorporation under the

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A. Howard Burtch

ATTORNEY
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COMPLIMENTS OF

Carl S. Salmon

**SURROGATE OF
MONTGOMERY
COUNTY**

Education Law in favor of THE MOHAWK-CAUGHNAWAGA MUSEUM. A charter was granted and issued under date of April 22, 1949.

The Mohawk-Caughnawaga Museum functions under a Board of Trustees, an Advisory Board and an Executive Committee. The trustees are: Thomas Grassmann, chairman and director; Francis Edic, Vincent J. Schaefer, P. Schuyler Miller, Edward J. Sheehan, Wayne S. Arnold, and Donald Lenig. The Advisory Board consists of Carl E. Guthe, Charles F. Gosnell, Albert B. Corey and Herman F. Robinton. The Executive Committee includes Thomas Grassmann, Edward J. Sheehan, Donald Lenig and Earl Casler.

The Mohawk-Caughnawaga Museum is maintained definitely as a period museum. The purposes for which the corporation is formed are:

1. To conserve the archaeological evidences of Indian culture.
2. To promote and maintain the History of Indians as well as that of those people who originally and later occupied the Mohawk Valley.
3. While emphasis is placed upon Mohawk Indian occupation this does not exclude an equal interest in settlements of such groups (non-Indian) who later came into possession of the Mohawk Valley lands.

The Mohawk-Caughnawaga Museum maintains four separate divisions: An exhibition of Indian relics or artifacts together with some early colonial objects; a research library of more than 600 volumes; a collection of early maps (over 100); and a collection of documents, between 300 to 400, some of which are original manuscripts but the greater part being photo-copies personally obtained by the director from important repositories in Canada, the United States, Italy and England.

It is the policy of the museum to accept any and all Indian material offered to it, either as outright gifts or as loans, provided that the donors can vouch for the authenticity of the objects and are able and willing to supply the source of origin so that the cataloging may be correct and accurate. The same can be said of authentic colonial objects with the understanding that all so-called "colonial" items must have originated prior to the year 1800.

Visitors to the museum are assured of a cordial reception during June through September, especially on Saturdays and Sundays. The museum conducts a "work-night" every Wednesday evening throughout the year; local collectors are invited to participate in these Wednesday gatherings for educational purposes.

Communications may be addressed to: The Mohawk-Caughnawaga Museum, Box 6, R. D. 1., Fonda, N.Y.

A P P E N D I X

Names of people who were in business in Fonda, N. Y., in 1850, taken from the New York State Business Directory of 1850-51.

Attorneys—Cushney & Ferguson, E. T. Schenck, Stephen Sammons, J. D. DeGroff.

CUT MILK PRODUCTION COSTS!

Poor dairy stable ventilation costs you money! A damp stable increases veterinary and repair bills, decreases production. A well-designed electric ventilating system keeps the stable dry, the temperature more even, and eliminates drafts. It pays for itself in healthier more productive livestock.

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Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.

BEST WISHES TO THE
VILLAGE OF FONDA
ON ITS 100TH
ANNIVERSARY

E. Corning Davis, 3rd.

NEWS and CONFECTIONS

FONDA, N. Y.

COMPLIMENTS OF
JOHN RUZICKA

LADIES and GENTS
TAILOR

Fonda, New York

BEST PLACE IN TOWN
TO BUY MADE-TO-MEA-
SURE SUITS AND OVER-
COATS AT FAIR AND
HONEST PRICES

Blacksmiths—James Yates, R. W. Bohannon, P. P. S. Groff, Jeder & Kline, B. J. Hanson, John Hanson.

Boots and Shoes—J. Lasher, G. & H. Clark, J. C. Ausman, J. Dillenbeck, Gilbert Van Dusen, A. N. Crotsenburg, Frederick Shultz, James Fritcher, J. M. Putman, James Veeder.

Carpenters—John J. Brower, F. Salisbury, E. G. Cherry, D. Markley, R. Blanchard, H. D. Briggs, Daniel Ehle, J. Van Brocklin, John Burch.

Carriage Makers—Jeder & Kline, C. E. Fisher, H. Godevin.

Clergymen—J. L. Starks, Dutch Reformed; G. C. Simmons, Methodist; D. Van Olinda, Dutch Reformed.

Coopers—W. E. Hughes, C. N. Hart & Co.

Druggist—Peter Fritcher.

Dry Goods and Groceries—M. O. Davis & Son, Perry Gates, D. H. Fonda, Fisher & Dockstader, James W. Kline, John S. Haggart.

Flour and Feed—C. N. Hart, Abijah Jones,

Hair Dressers—Sewell Gibson, Joseph Adams.

Harness Makers—J. L. Lingenfelter, Fisher Putman,

Livery Stable—G. W. Morgan.

Lumber Dealers—Lynds Jones, Abijah Jones, William T. Sammons, William Brewer, Alexander Saltsman.

Machinists—Richard Blanchard, W. E. Hughes.

Milliners—Mrs. Susan Cross, Mrs. M. L. Jones, Miss E. Becker, Mrs. A. Schenck.

Painters (House)—E. B. Maxfield, John W. Dougald.

Plaster Mills—Lynds Jones, A. Lingenfelter, J. V. Wemple.

Post Master—Peter Fritcher.

Printers—J. J. Whitehouse & Co.

Public Houses—J. Everson, Caughnawaga House; Davis & McIntyre, Franklin House; Isaac Crosby, Republican House; P. H. Fonda, Fonda Hotel; J. Quackenbush, Cayadutta Hotel; H. L. Prime, L. M. Glackin.

Restaurants—H. M. Gown, William S. Wiers, G. M. Dockstader, J. J. Davis, John Quackenbush, P. S. Tappin.

Tailors—Henry Bellington, Benjamin Hees, S. P. LeRoy.

Tanners—R. Van Husen, James Clark, S. Van Dusen.

Threshing Machine Manufacturèrs—J. V. Wemple & Son.

Tin, Copper, Sheet Iron Workers—Teller & Folsom.

Cider and vinegar was manufactured by B. H. Vrooman, who was also an ice dealer, and by Benjamin S. Martin; the business of the latter, wholesale and retail, was established in 1866.

The first insurance office in Fonda was opened in 1862 by Abner H. Burtch. This business is still carried on by his grandson A. Howard Burtch.

Peter A. Graff was a justice of the peace with office in Old Courthouse.

P. Colgrove was a manufacturer and dealer in harness, whips, etc.

Henry Siver was the proprietor of the Fonda Marble Works.

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GLOVERSVILLE
Parsons Inc. of Gloversville

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CENTRAL BRIDGE

GLENS FALLS

Names of people who are in businesses in Fonda, N. Y., in 1950:

Antiques—Frank McNamee, Peter Morford & Son.

Attorneys—A. Howard Burtch, Jay H. Leonhardt, Lansing Thornton.

Bakery—Fonda Bakery.

Bank—National Mohawk River Bank.

Barbers—Joe DeSantis, Charles Sentebare, George Sherman, James Thorne.

Beauty Salons—Concetta Leggiero, Earline Krawiec, Julia Cervo.

Carpenters—Neil Phillips, Frank Wilson.

Chiropractor—James V. Smith.

Clergymen—Adolph Bernholz, S. J., Putnam Cady, D. D. (retired), Gerard J. Koster, Harry J. White.

Clothier—J. W. Horning.

Coal Dealers—Coal Co. of Fulton County, S. O. Spencer.

Contractors—Rocco Conte, Harry Derby, Thomas Papa.

Dentists—William J. Bowe, W. C. Callahan, Archie Webster.

Drug Store—J. A. & J. M. Wyman.

Farm Supplies—G. L. F. Service, Inc., General Mills, Inc., Guiffre Bros., A. J. Daniels.

Fish Market—James Maze.

Florist—Joyce & Jack Pickering.

Fuel Gas and Oil Distributors—Andrew J. Ault, Stanley Bauder, Howard Bell, A. J. Daniels, Gunneson Bros., Newton Roblee, Socony Vacuum Oil Co.

Funeral Director—Murray and John L. Jackson.

Furniture—George Furniture Co. (M. L. Jackson), Finer Furniture Store (W. E. Golden).

Garages—Central Garage (Frank Ochampaugh), Fonda Garage (Schuyler & Berry), West End Garage (James Brookman).

Grocers—Henry Collins, Fonda Market (Ford & Company), Alfonso Luciano, E. J. McKeough, Anthony Nardick, Oneida Market, Edward Tretola.

Hardware—Duross Bros., Lathers & Ruby.

Hotels, Grills, Restaurants—Brunswick (Mrs. L. M. O'Melia), Fonda Hotel (Mrs. Pakeltis), Maze's (Stanley Bojarski), DeBerry's, Dodgers' (John Griffith), Fairview Inn (D. Luciano), Patsy Cas-sell's Grill, Pat's Cafe (R. List), Tony Nardick's Grill, Mohawk Restaurant (Joe Conte), Colonial Restaurant (Andre Samara), Hand's Diner (Florence Healey), Cottage Home Diner (Harry Lockwood), Sarris Bros. Lunch Room.

Insurance—Tunis P. Bowler, A. Howard Burtch, Ernest Lansing, Mrs. James I. Spraker, Lansing S. Thornton.

Liquor Store—Fonda Liquor Store (Stanley Mitchell).

Manufacturers—Fonda Glove Lining Co., Aris Fabric Corp., Templeton Glove Co., Fonda Welding Shop, Snyder Easy Glove Turner, Niagara Mohawk Power Corp., Collins Bottling Works, William P. Peasley Co. (fabric makers).

Railroads—New York Central R. R. (ticket agent, Ernest Lara-

Greetings
TO THE
Village of Fonda

A N D

**FELICITATIONS ON ITS
CENTURY OF PROGRESS**

**Finer Furniture
Store**

FONDA, N. Y.

may; freight agent, Guy Sheffer), Fonda, Johnstown & Gloversville R. R.

News Dealers—E. Corning Davis III, Wagon Wheel (Zentz & Mosconi).

Physicians—Michael Kizun, M. D., Vincent P. Russo, M. D., George M. Glenn, M. D.

Plumbing and Heating—Bert Cranker, Gunneson Bros., James Lippie.

Postmaster—LeRoy Kurlbaum.

Printer—Mohawk Valley Democrat and Job Printing (W. Bar-ent Wemple).

Service Stations (Auto)—Ault Bros., Howard Bell, Leitt & Oare, William Van Alstyne.

Shoemaker—Vincent Pezzulo.

Tailor—John Ruzicka.

Taxi—Howard's Taxi (Howard Vreeland), Fonda Taxi (Willard Yates).

Town Clerk—Patrick J. Compani.

Variety Store—Elm Store.

United States, New York State and Montgomery County Departments are situated at Fonda, N. Y.

Agriculture Conservation Association, U. S. P. & M. A. (Old Courthouse).

U. S. Department of Agriculture Conservation Service (Old Courthouse).

Montgomery County Clerk's offices at the Old Courthouse.

Montgomery County Surrogate's Court and Office at the Old Courthouse.

Montgomery County Department of History and Archives in the Old Courthouse.

Montgomery County Farm Bureau.

Montgomery County 4-H Club.

Montgomery County Home Bureau.

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and County Jail.

Montgomery County Supreme Court Chambers, New Courthouse.

Montgomery County Court Chambers, New Courthouse.

Montgomery County Highway Department, Highway Building, Park Street.

New York State Police—Burtch Block Main Street.

LAWS OF NEW YORK CHAP. 911, YEAR 1869,

AN ACT requiring the Fonda, Johnstown and Gloversville Railroad to restore the public highway in the town of Mohawk, known as the Fonda and Caroga Plank Road, to its original line.

Passed May 19, 1869

The People of the State of New York, represent in the Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

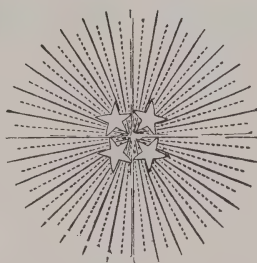
Section 1. The Fonda, Johnstown and Gloversville Railroad Company are hereby required, by the first of July next, to restore the Public Highway in the town of Mohawk, Montgomery County, known as the Fonda and Caroga Plank Road, to its original line of location as it existed at the

CONGRATULATIONS
TO
OUR NEIGHBORING
VILLAGE OF FONDA
ON ITS ONE HUNDREDTH
ANNIVERSARY
**Mohawk Carpet
Mills, Inc.**
AMSTERDAM

time of laying out and constructing their railroad, where the same crosses said highway in said town of Mohawk, by constructing a sufficient road way, not less than twenty feet in width, with easy grades and safe approaches on said original line of location through the high embankment and under said railroad.

Section 2. Should said railroad company neglect or refuse to comply with the requirements of the first section of this Act, the commissioners of highways of the said town of Mohawk are authorized and empowered to dig away the embankment constructed across said highway by said railroad company, and restore said highway to its original line of location and usefulness, and to recover the expense thereof from said railroad company in their name of office, by action with cost of suit.

Section 3. This Act shall take effect immediately.



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CONGRATULATIONS
—TO THE—
VILLAGE OF FONDA
ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY



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AMSTERDAM, N. Y.

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VILLAGE OF FONDA
ON ITS HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY

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Company**

— Makers of Fabric Gloves—

FONDA, N. Y.

The publication of this Centennial Souvenir has been made possible by the generous aid of the professional and business establishments whose advertisements appear herein. While these advertisements are evidences of loyal support of the present Centennial observance, they also will serve as expressions of appreciation of the continued patronage of the people of Fonda and vicinity.

We, the compilers of this history, wish to express our appreciation to all those who contributed material, information and effort in the preparation of this history of Fonda. We wish to especially thank the following: Edward J. Sheehan, county archivist; Mrs. Elizabeth B. J. Hammond, village historian; and the Rev. Adolph Bernholz.

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VILLAGE OF FONDA

